Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Algeria

Thousands Participate in Algiers Democracy Rally

LD1005200390 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 May 90

[Excerpt] Thousands of tens of thousands—it is rather difficult to assess the number of citizens who took part in the popular march that swamped the streets between the 1 May square and the Martyr's Square in the capital this afternoon.

As we know, the march was called for by four political parties, and a number of societies with no political character took part in organizing it under the slogan of protection of democracy. [Video shows the peaceful march in the streets of Algiers with men, women, and children seen marching, chanting pro-democracy slogans, and carrying banners calling for the protection of democracy. No reference is made to the Islamic movement] [passage omitted]

Egypt

Ghali Comments on Mubarak's Visit to Moscow

NC1005160090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs and chairman of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society, has stated that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Moscow on 14 May will cap the positive developments achieved in Egyptian-Soviet relations over the last few years.

In a press statement today, Ghali said that Egypt and the Soviet Union are planning with all foresight, awareness, and earnestness to support and develop relations between the two friendly countries and to lay a strong foundation for beneficial cooperation in all spheres.

Ghali explained that all aspects of Egyptian-Soviet relations will be discussed during President Mubarak's visit to Moscow. The discussions will be held in a spirit of sincerity and mutual confidence and understanding with the aim of opening new vistas for fruitful cooperation and advanced relations.

Dr. Ghali stressed that Egypt is fully convinced that the Soviet Union's political and active involvement in the Middle East question is a decisive and necessary factor. This role becomes more important and vital in light of the East-West detente, which helps the resolution of regional issues in general and the Middle East problem and the Palestinian issue in particular.

Dr. Ghali also stressed that President Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union will contribute to emphasizing the rights of the Palestinian people in light of the current circumstances which allow the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union.

Reportage of President Mubarak's Visit to China

WA1105122690

For PRC coverage of President Husni Mubarak's official visit to China, see the International section of the 10 May and subsequent issues of the China DAILY REPORT.

Interior Minister Rejects Talks With Extremists

PM1005151390 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 7 May 90 p 21

[Report on interview with Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa by Kamil al-Faqiyy in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpt] In an exclusive interview with the 'UKAZ weekly edition, Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said that members of the sabotage organization seized recently in Egypt are being referred to the prosecutor's office to stand trial. The organization's aim was to terrorize the police using violent means like incendiaries and explosives.

He added: Thank God, we thwarted the scheme in its early stage and all the organization's members, leaders, and weapons have been caught. We should not worry, because the security situation, with God's help, is as well as one could possibly wish.

Asked about the organization's connection with the al-Fayyum incidents, he said that the organization's members thought that by embarking on such sabotage acts they were replying to what happened at the village of Kahk in the Ibshaway district, al-Fayyum, where 16 people were killed a few days ago.

On what is being circulated about signs of sectarian sedition in Egypt, Musa said that that picture exists only in the imagination of those who are promoting it. And a campaign of sound enlightenment has been launched to correct people's ideas. Apart from that, all centers are being eliminated and similar groups are being arrested.

On what was reported when he was appointed Egyptian interior minister about conducting a direct dialogue with the extremist groups, he said: Such a dialogue is out of the question. The Egyptian and foreign media did us an injustice by talking about that question. We do not hold dialogues, and security is security. In any case dialogue has to be conducted with understanding and open-minded people. Regrettably there are people whose minds have deviated completely. So whom are we to hold a dialogue with? I would say that dialogue with these people has become futile.

In his interview with the 'UKAZ weekly edition the Egyptian interior minister also denied recent reports that Yusuf al-Tahhan, convicted on drugs charges, has escaped execution because of the existence of an intelligence scheme behind him. He said that the allegation is untrue, because the verdict is being appealed against and the matter is in the

hands of the judiciary. He emphasized that that is no one's favor, because the matter concerns only Egypt's security and reputation. [passage omitted]

Musa on Sectarian Sedition

JN1005190090 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 May 90 p 3

[By Hasan al-Shayyab]

[Excerpts] Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, interior minister, has asserted that there is no sectarian sedition in Egypt. Sedition, he argued, means the presence of two parties—but the truth is that we make up one fabric in Egypt. Moreover, since the Islamic conquest, Muslims and Copts in Egypt have been living as brothers. We have a common aim, and we share laughter and sorrow. Islam means peace and love, tolerance and benevolence. The slogan raised by Christianity is, similarly, peace and love of people. So, where can conflict and misunderstandings originate from?

The minister was speaking at the Press Association in an open dialogue with journalists which lasted for more than four hours. The meeting was attended by Mukram Muhammad Ahmad, the journalists' doyen, who introduced the minister and thanked him for his decision not to search journalists at the airport. The minister said that recent incidents are the result of various factors and elements which should be further investigated. We should also look into the motives and reasons that caused these incidents to surface in such a manner. [passage omitted]

The interior minister denied that terrorist operations and extremist incidents are being financed from outside Egypt, despite the fact that our borders are open and that we have witnessed drug smuggling and gunrunning. Had there been any financing from outside, Shawki al-Shaykh, leader of the New Jihad Organization who was killed during the al-Fayyum incidents, would not have resorted to imposing fines and fees on farmers and residents of al-Fayyum. He added: I cannot say that Israel is taking part in the sectarian sedition in Egypt. Israel has other methods to harass us, the minister contended. I assure you that Muslims and Christians reject any foreign intervention, and do not heed it.

On deporting members of a foreign organization (two Swiss and one German) who were accused of attempting to convert people to Christianity in al-'Ajuzah, the interior minister said these came to Egypt on a scientific mission, and part of their job was to talk to people. Some interpreted this as missionary. However, we, too, found that they exceeded the limits of their mission. Consequently, we took the necessary measures and referred them to the public prosecutor, who decided to deport them. I, in turn, respect the decision of the judiciary. As for the American who is infected with AIDS, he was a resident at a hotel in al-Uqsur and refused to pay his bill. Afterwards, he showed the hotel administration a certificate which proves that he has AIDS, and this spread panic in the hotel. He also claimed that he has had immoral relations with some children. Thank God this was revealed, because the Health Ministry adopted new measures afterwards and bought new medical instruments which can detect AIDS.

The minister, moreover, asserted that Israeli prisoner Yusuf Tahhan, who is sentenced to death in a drug case, is still in an Egyptian prison and has not escaped, as some claimed. He has also made an appeal; so how can we execute him before we complete all the procedures?

Asked about tapping the telephones of some of the party leaders, the interior minister said loudly: I challenge anyone to prove that the telephone of anyone of these people or that of an ordinary citizen is under surveillance without judiciary permission or a court order. I loudly challenge any official. Tapping telephones is an inhuman, immoral act. I fear God, and this thing has not taken place since last January, and will never take place.

The interior minister also asserted that torture is a crime and that this is not his policy. He asked: Why should I torture anyone? Is it a hobby of mine? He called on any citizen who receives information on torture cases to immediately refer the accused to the law. The minister indicated that there are penalties according to the prisoners' sentences, like flogging and solitary confinement. Some think this is torture. Police inspectors, moreover, carry out surprise visits to the camps of the police forces and stations, and this is their right.

Reportage on Price Hikes, Civilian Reaction

Natural Gas

JN1005173890 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 May 90 p 1

[Text] 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has stressed that the prices of natural gas for home consumption are not being raised. The price hike to four piasters and seven mills per cubic meter of natural gas affects only sales to the brick, gypsum, earthenware, and cement plants of the public and private sector and investment companies.

The prices of petroleum products sold to investment firms and projects will stay unchanged. Their requirements of petroleum products will be met at the prevailing international rates, the minister added.

Demonstration in Qina

JN1005182290 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 May 90 p 1

[Text] Hundreds of citizens thronged Sidi 'Abd-al-Rahman Square in the city of Qina the day before yesterday, chanting anti-government slogans to protest price hikes. The protesters were confronted by police, who made several arrests. Similar protests were held in villages and centers of the governorate.

Workers Protest

JN1105073690 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 May 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] Around 3,000 workers in the textile company in al-Mahallah al-Kubra demonstrated the day before yesterday to protest the increase in the prices of goods and services. The demonstration erupted during the change of shift at 1500.

The workers denounced government policies as chaotic and chanted slogans. The demonstrators also threatened to strike and stage a sit-in inside the company headquarters. Security forces dispersed the demonstrators with tear gas canisters, and work resumed as usual on the evening shift.

The al-Gharbiyah Governorate Security Directorate sent security reinforcements to al-Mahallah al-Kubra in anticipation of fresh rioting, and imposed strict security measures around factories and businesses. Some workers were arrested in their homes at night. Certain workers in al-Mahallah and Kafr al-Dawwar refused to receive their May Day bonuses in protest against the price hikes. Taxi drivers in al-Mahallah, Alexandria, and al-Buhayrah refused to work and demanded higher taxi fares to face the increase in the price of gasoline. The security forces failed to force the drivers to work.

AL-WAFD has learned that the government backed off at the last minute from a decision to double the price of bread because of the general state of discontent in the country.

Libya

Chadian Ambassador Summoned Over Truck Seizure

LD1005210590 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1945 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 10 May (JANA)—At a point deep inside Sudanese territory—500km from the Sudanese-Libyan border and 400km from the Sudanese-Chadian border—a unit of the Chadian Army intercepted 10 Libyan civilian trucks working on the transportation and commercial lines from Libya to Sudan. The Chadian Army forces captured the trucks and detained the drivers and those accompanying them.

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation today, 10 May 1990, summoned the Chadian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah and told him about the gravity of this action which constituted a sort of piracy and threatened the safety of transportation and commerce routes and the land passage of the citizens of the two countries. The Bureau also asked the ambassador to carry out an urgent contact with his government and stress to it the need to return the trucks with their full cargo and release the drivers and those accompanying them as soon as possible.

Yasir 'Arafat Replies to Al-Qadhdhafi Message

LD1005134890 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received a message from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat in reply to his message to the leaders of the Islamic states concerning the U.S. Senate's decision to consider Arab Jerusalem as the Zionist enemy's capital.

In his message to the leader, 'Arafat indicated that this decision proves once again the United States' blatant bias toward the Zionist enemy and that it was a violation of all the United Nations resolutions, international norms, and conventions. He also announced that the response of the Palestine Arab people to this decision is to continue the struggle and the resistance to the Zionist occupation and to step up the sweeping popular revolution waged by the Palestinian Arab generation of anger.

'Arafat stressed the importance of mobilizing all the capabilities of the Arab nation to enable the Palestinian Arab people to continue their heroic struggle to liberate their land and return to it.

PRC Delegation Arrives in Tripoli 9 May

LD1005173490 Tripoli JANA in English 1620 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Ma' [May] 10. Jamahiriyah News Agency—Mr. H. Shio [name as received], chairman of the Chinese Friendship Society with foreign countries, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli yesterday on a visit to Great al-Jamahiriyah.

Morocco

King Receives Tunisian, Malian, Soviet Envoys

LD1005214790 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] After receiving members of the Academy, King Hasan II received the Tunisian Minister of Justice Mr. Chadli Neffati, the envoy of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The Tunisian envoy was accompanied by the Tunisian ambassador to Morocco.

The monarch also received the Malian minister of public works, Mr. Oumar Doumbia, who handed His Majesty a message from Malian President Moussa Traore.

The monarch also received the Soviet ambassador to Morocco, Mr. Yuriy Rybakov, the envoy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to His Majesty.

Sudan

Radio Cites Al-Bashir on New System, Coup

EA1005180090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] The Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH issued today, 8 May, has published in two full pages the text of the interview given by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, to the paper's chief editor, Mr. Ahmad Ali, in Khartoum. The newspaper published a summary of the interview at the top of its front page in bold headlines reading as follows: Al-Bashir Gives His First Interview After the Failed Coup Attempt.

[Word indistinct] hand-over of power to the people. The Salvation Revolution has put an end to waste, pilfering, and embezzlement of public funds and it has (?stabilized) the value of the Sudanese pound. Washington has given its blessing to the federal system and has accepted the failure of the partisan system.

The main and subsidiary headlines for the interview were as follows: In an interview as hot as the temperature in Sudan, al-Bashir says: We took power without bloodshed. We have not taken stern measures against detainees. We have not tried people without due legal process. We do not possess the rod of Moses and are therefore unable to bring about reform simply by virtue of having taken power. Al-Turabi's [foreign minister in 1989] alleged statement is part of the hostile campaign. Garang views the southern problem as an Arab-Islamic war against the South and the Christians. Sudan will never become another Lebanon. The coup attempt was put down by the masses. If we do not solve the southern problem, we shall face a difficult task, but it is not an impossible one. Union with Libya is an integrated project and its aim is to serve the two countries. It is not aimed exclusively to gain help for Sudan. The popular defense forces are subject to the Armed Forces and their training is supervised by Sudanese officers. The budget to be announced next month will reveal the economic achievements made by the revolution. In 1971, tens of individuals were executed at the Guesthouse without having been tried simply for being supporters of al-Numayri.

Introducing the interview, the chief editor said he had sought the meeting to establish the facts of the situation, particularly inasmuch as there are those who are stirring up a fabricated hullabaloo and releasing clouds of smoke to serve interests far removed from those of Sudan and its people.

He added that the chairman had replied to all his questions and had not requested the deletion of any of them, nor had he shown constraint in the face of the force and frankness of the questions. He said: The impression I was left with after this meeting was totally vindicated in the course of my meetings with a number of officials and many of the sons of fraternal Sudan, as well as my meetings with a number of diplomats who afforded me the opportunity of meeting them, and this impression is that the situation is calm and that the revolution is proceeding along its path in spite of what it is encountering in the way of problems and doubt-casting campaigns with multifaceted aims and orientations.

The meeting, as well as concerning itself with the political and economic situations in Sudan and discussing the coup, dealt with what the revolution has achieved in the field of economic stability, the problem of the South, Sudan's foreign relations and relations with its neighbors, and unity with Libya.

In addition to all this, the Qatari newspaper devoted its leading article today to commenting on the contents of Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir's statements. It wrote under the headline: Sudan's Stability: Lt. Gen. al-Bashir revealed to the chief editor of AL- RAYAH that preparations are currently in progress to establish a political system to afford the Sudanese people the opportunity of participating in government.

The newspaper commented on this as follows: It is certain that this step will bring about positive effects on Sudan's course and its ability to face up to the difficult problems besetting its path, and will facilitate Sudan's efforts to carry out its development and construction tasks, because popular participation is essential and decisive and the masses will be referred to in terms of their role and responsibilities. In this way there will be an unlimited response.

If the Western-style partisan system has proved a failure in Sudan, this does not mean locking the door to popular participation, because the latter can assume many forms. What is important is that it should not be constricted or imposed from above. Any infringements or mistakes arising in the course of engaging in such experiments or systems. [sentence as heard]

The newspaper concluded its commentary, saying: It is our hope that Sudan will achieve the necessary level of stability needed for construction, and that all Sudan's forces are able to overcome their problems and difficulties so that Sudan will be able to return to what it has always been—a force for the Arabs, the Muslims, and the Africans.

Official 'Source' Denies Coup Attempt Fabricated

EA1005162990 Khartoum SUNA in French 1550 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 9 May (SUNA)—A well-informed official political source has criticized the report filed by AFP which quoted former Egyptian ministers and intellectuals alleging that the recently failed coup attempt in Khartoum was just a fabrication by the government so as to get rid of its military opponents.

The source stressed that the attempt mounted by the soldiers was a fact and the international media, in addition to the foreign embassies in Khartoum, had witnessed the incidents on the spot.

The source expressed the view that the former Egyptian officials were the cause of all the ills and failures of the

Arab nation up to now and had been thrown into the dustbin of Egyptian history due to their violations of human rights.

Al-Bashir Calls Soviet Jews' Migration 'Plot'

EA1005153090 Khartoum SUNA in English 0911 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 10 May (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council, [Lieutenant] General 'Umar al-Bashir, has described the migration of the Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine as a plot against the Islamic nation.

Addressing the opening session of the meetings of the Islamic Dawa (Call) Organisation's (IDO) Council of Trustees here last night, General al-Bashir said the migration of the Soviet Jews to Palestine is a plot targetting the existence of the Arab and Islamic nation. "The enemies of the Arab and Islamic nation are utilising all means and weapons, whether direct or indirect, against the Arabs and Muslims," the leader of the revolution said, adding that Islam calls for peaceful coexistence, solidarity and peace.

General al-Bashir hailed the IDO, referring to its pioneering role in Islamic work, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction in Sudan.

'Umar Al-Bashir Receives Outgoing UK Envoy

AB1005112990 Khartoum SUNA in French 1525 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 8 May (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, National Salvation Revolution Command Council chairman, received His Excellency Mr. John Beaven, the United Kingdom's ambassador to Khartoum, in Khartoum on Tuesday on the occasion of the expiration of his term. After the meeting, the British diplomat said that all areas of bilateral relations between the two countries had been discussed.

Minister Meets Iraqi Envoy, Turkish Delegation

EA1005111990 Khartoum SUNA in English 0921 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Khartoum 9 May (SUNA)—Defence State Minister Major General (ret) 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan reviewed here Tuesday with the Iraqi ambassador issues of military training and exchange of expertise between the armies of the two countries. On the other hand, the minister discussed [on the] same day with [the] delegation of a Turkish company, the possibility of providing means of transportation to the Armed Forces.

Egyptian Fundamentalists Allegedly Train Locally

EA1005084890 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 8 May 90

[Text] The government of 'Umar al-Bashir this morning denied reports by Radio Monte Carlo that elements of Egyptian fundamentalists are being trained in Sudan, but our very reliable source, however, has confirmed that the training of Egyptian fundamentalists is now taking place in the Sudan, in far, secret and isolated areas, not known to the Sudanese public. This confirmed the report carried by Radio Monte Carlo, our sources said.

Opposition Group Reports Mutiny at Kaduqli

EA1005125390 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 9 May 90

[Excerpt] Fifteen government militia of Anyanya-Two soldiers have mutinied inside Kaduqli [southern Kurdufan] on 3rd May 1990, and joined [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] New Cush forces. [passage omitted]

Oman

Reportage on Egyptian President Mubarak Visit

Arrives 10 May

NC1005145890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak arrived in Muscat this afternoon on a short visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During the visit he will hold talks with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id on the latest Arab and international developments, bilateral relations, and ways of strengthening these relations in all areas.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus was on hand at the airport to receive President Mubarak, who was also met by Qays 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; and Yusuf Bin-al-Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus and President Mubarak then left in a motorcade for Bayt al-Barakah, where the president will be staying during his short visit to the Sultanate. President Mubarak will later leave for a tour of China, the USSR, and North Korea.

Qabus Agrees on Summit

JN1005175290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 gmt 10 May 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] In Cairo it has been learned that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's talks with Sultan Qabus of Oman dealt with the latest developments on the subject of the Arab summit and efforts to clear the atmosphere between Damascus and Baghdad. Sources have said that Sultan Qabus told President Mubarak that he supports the convocation of the summit in Baghdad. It has also been learned that the talks dealt with the summit agenda. The two sides stressed the need to reach agreement on a political stance that will be proclaimed by the Arab summit and be submitted as a unified plan to the various international forces.

Mubarak Leaves for Beijing

NC1005202790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak left Muscat this evening for Beijing after a visit of several hours to the Sultanate of Oman. During his visit to Oman, he held talks with his majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on current Arab issues, international developments, and bilateral ties. Sultan Qabus led the well-wishers who saw off President Mubarak at the airport.

Iraqi Ambassador Conveys Message to Sultan

JN1005142190 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received today in his office at Sib Palace Mr. Khalid 'Abdallah al-Samarra'i, the accredited ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the Sultanate, who conveyed to his majesty an oral message from Saddam Husayn, president of the fraternal Republic of Iraq.

PDRY

Council of Ministers Holds Regular Meeting

EA1005111490 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 May 90

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held a regular meeting this morning under the chairmanship of brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers. The Council discussed a number of items on its agenda, including the results of the recent meeting in Sanaa between the North and South Yemen prime ministers from 1 to 4 May. The Council rated highly the results of the meeting, stressing the need for all concerned to fulfill the responsibilities vested in them in accordance with the timetable laid down in the record of the meeting.

The Council then discussed and ratified the draft laws governing the practice of medicine and pharmacology, and governing the resolution of group disputes. The Council instructed the director general of the Council of Ministers' secretariat to submit the two bills and the basic observations made on them to the Presidium, for the latter to submit them to the Supreme People's Council.

The Council discussed and ratified the draft law governing the organization of the public authority for the promotion of investment, and instructed the director of the Council of Ministers' secretariat to prepare the law in its final format, and to submit it to the prime minister for the latter to issue it.

The Council of Ministers also discussed a clarificatory memorandum on the performance of the budget for the price subsidy fund for 1990, in relation to the prices of basic commodities.

The Council discussed and ratified the draft estimates of the health security fund for the financial year 1990, and agreed to support the National Fish Marketing Authority in subsidizing the transportation of fish from (Mashtun) and Mukalla and the island of Suqutrah to Aden—to supply the local market. [passage omitted]

The Council ratified the agreement providing for participation in production in the Habrut area in Mahrah Governorate between the Ministry of Energy and Mines and the Petroleum Company of Canada, signed in Aden on 1 April 1990. At this meeting, the Council of Ministers also authorized individuals and public institutions

and organizations to make use of the (?facsimile) apparatus. The Council also discussed a number of other issues and made appropriate decisions.

Al-'Attas Leads Presidium Unity Discussion

EA1005120890 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] The Presidium of the Supreme People's Council [SPC] today held its 44th session under the chairmanship of brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Burrau and chairman of the SPC Presidium.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Presidium was briefed on the minutes of the joint meeting between the chairmen of the two Council of Ministers in the two parts and listened to the replies of brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Burrau and prime minister, to the questions of the members. The presidium praised the efforts exerted by the two prime ministers and the important results achieved at their latest meeting in Sanaa, the capital of the unity state, in continuation of the meetings of the political leadership for the unified homeland and the unification meetings. The Presidium stressed the importance of carrying out the tasks laid down in the minutes for the ministries and the concerned organs within the periods of time fixed for them.

The Presidium also dealt with issues in the agenda of the 13th SPC session and decided to convene the session next Sunday, 13 May.

The Presidium approved the decision of the SPC to increase the number of service schemes in conformity with the importance and priority of each within the framework of the economic and social plan. The Presidium also approved the loan agreement concluded between our country and the OPEC Fund for International Development concerning the electricity connection project between the two parts of the Yemeni homeland, and the loan agreement between our country and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development concerning funding for the third phase of the Hadramawt Valley Agricultural Scheme. It also awarded a number of medals.

Defense Minister, Soviet Officials Attend Rally

EA1005122990 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 May 90

[From the "News and Reports" program]

[Text] This evening, the Ministry of Defense and the Soviet experts and advisers held an art and military rally with speeches at the al-Dali barracks to mark the 45th anniversary of the victory over Japanese fascist imperialism in the presence of brothers Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, member of the Political Burrau and defense minister; Staff Brigadier Haytham Qasim Salih, candidate member of the Political Burrau, first deputy defense minister and chief of staff; Lieutenant Colonel Dr. (?Husayn Ali Hajar), member of the Central Committee and director of the Political Department at the Defense Ministry; Albert Rachkov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet ambassador in Aden; a number of Central Committee members; leaders of the Armed Forces; and ambassadors accredited to Aden.

At the beginning of the rally, brother Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad delivered an address. He began by conveying the congratulations and greetings of the leaderships of the party and state and of the leaders and fighters of the Armed Forces on the occasion which is being celebrated by the friendly Soviet people, the Armed Forces, and all the world's good, peaceful, and progressive forces.

He said: It was on 9 May 1945 that the Soviet people and army won the great victory over Hitlerite fascism and Japanese nazism. By virtue of this victory, all civilized peoples were rescued from this danger which had been threatening them all without exception. The USSR and its Red Army performed a leading role in this and made unprecedented sacrifices.

The brother defense minister lauded the development of the relations between our two countries and armies. He highly rated the honorable assistance and constant support which the USSR and its Armed Forces have provided and continue to provide for our country and its Armed Forces.

He went on to refer to the unificatory developments taking place and the drawing near of the day of the Yemeni people's joy—that being the day of the unification of their homeland and its people. He noted that this confirmed that the imprint of the honorable Soviet assistance was very obviously apparent in the [word indistinct] history of military defense in Yemen.

Brother Muhammad Salim Ba Dinar, secretary of the Presidium, then read a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, awarding the People's Friendship Medal to a number of Soviet and Cuban experts in appreciation of their efforts to strengthen and develop Yemeni-Soviet-Cuban friendship and in recognition of their internationalist role.

Meanwhile, a news conference to mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Yemeni-Soviet Friendship Association and the 45th anniversary of the victory over fascism was held at the Yemeni-Soviet Friendship Hall at noon today in the presence of Comrade (Kobaverifi Vladimirovich), member of the Georgian CP Central Committee and minister of culture of the autonomous [as heard] Republic of Georgia; a number of officials of the Yemeni-Soviet Friendship Association; and media representatives in our country.

At the beginning of the conference, (Vladimirovich) referred to the role being performed by the Yemeni-Soviet Friendship Association in developing and strengthening the relationship between the two friendly countries, pointing out the areas of cooperation between the two. This includes sending Yemeni students to the USSR to study at all levels and in various fields of specialization. He said he was

pleased to be visiting Democratic Yemen, which today is experiencing a surge toward unification and is looking forward to achieving the unification of the homeland, the ancient dream of its people.

Comrade (Vladimirovich) said that perestroyka in the USSR is aimed at rehabilitating the individual, who aspires to build a new life, and rising toward optimal prosperity. He praised the relations linking the Yemeni and Soviet peoples, relations which are developing and growing stronger in the interests of the peoples of the two countries.

Saudi Arabia

Paper Cites Bush's 'New Vision' on Emigration

PM1005133190 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 5 May 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Bush...The New Balances"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush has renewed his opposition to Israeli settlement operations in the occupied Arab territories. And indeed this statement reemphasizes the opposition to Shamir's claim that the Jews are entitled to settle wherever they want. His claim reflects the view and political attitude of an extremist, conceited, irrational, and provocative Israeli politician whose history is characterized by terror, spite, and usurpation. So the U.S. position brings a new vision characterized by realism, fairness, and an intention not to impose a reality with oppressive and painful dimensions. Undoubtedly the U.S. President is in practice launching a natural venture for utilizing efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. This is because Jewish emigration is a burden which has been added to the map of the region, which has experienced deterioration on the various political fronts. So international efforts must be pooled, and the efforts of the United States, which as a superpower bears responsibility for world peace, are in the forefront. It should support truth and justice and match its statements with actions in order to check and control the advocates of oppression and merchants of war in Israel. The United States is also urged more than ever before to find sufficient guarantees to ensure that the $400 million in housing loans which it has provided for Israel are not used for settlement in the occupied Arab territories.

Such aid opens the door to Israel to establish settlements and encourage more emigres to head for Israel, and 130,000 Jewish emigres are expected to arrive there by the end of the year.

These statements and the acceleration of events form the context which determines the importance of adopting a firm stand against Israel's practices in the occupied territories and its commitment of the ugliest of crimes against Arab citizens demanding their legitimate rights, which have been oppressively and forcibly usurped.

And the Arab side is requested to get away from its rigid positions which are no more than statements condemning Israel's practices. Israel's gains at the international level emphasize that Shamir is heading for the greater Israel of which he dreams and for the sake of whose establishment he is mobilizing himself, his energy, his resources, and also the capabilities of the Jews both inside and outside Palestine.

In fact these changes and this illegitimate Israeli greed and ambition require a new Arab vision at both the Arab and international levels—a vision that constitutes backing for the blessed intifadah and for Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and creates a new condition with a view to confronting the threats represented by the Jews' emigration in order for us to avert further disasters.

Yemen Arab Republic

DFLP Chief Departs Following 'Fruitful' Visit

JN1005132290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 May 90

[Excerpt] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], left Sanaa today after a several-day visit to our country.

Brother Nayif Hawatimah said the visit was positive and fruitful, especially regarding the common struggle of the Yemeni and Palestinian states and issues of interest to the Arab nation. He stated that talks with leader 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and officials of the Congress and the General Committee have achieved excellent results.

Moreover, Hawatimah said the reunification of Yemen serves the Yemeni people's aspirations for economic, social, and democratic development. It also serves crucial Arab issues, he added. Hawatimah also said the talks dealt with the next emergency Arab summit, ways of transforming its decisions from words to deeds, political and financial support for the glorious intifadah of the Palestinian people, and the union of Arab efforts in order to establish collective Arab solidarity in the interest of Arab issues. [passage omitted]

Envoy to Washington Cited on U.S. Relations

PM1105101690 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 15 May 90 p 21

[Unattributed interview with Iraqi Ambassador to Washington Muhammad Sadiq al-Mashshat; date, place not given]

[Text] [Interviewer] Washington has noticeably intensified its contacts with Tehran and continued its campaigns against Iraq. Will that affect U.S.-Iraqi relations?

[Al-Mashshat] Every country has its own policy in charting relations with any other country. The normalization of relations with Iran by the United States or any other country does not upset us. We ourselves are working to normalize our relations with Iran and for a peace agreement with it. Arming Iran in the absence of a permanent peace treaty is what really worries us.

[Interviewer] Have you informed the U.S. authorities of any new developments regarding the charges and arrests in connection with the smuggling of U.S. nuclear materials to Iraq?

[Al-Mashshat] There is nothing new, except that the campaign against Iraq is continuing. We are sure that the facts will show the American public that these allegations against Iraq are false.

[Interviewer] Are the differences between Congress and the administration over the attitude to Iraq real or are they nothing more than a distribution of roles?

[Al-Mashshat] Basically, the Zionist lobby is behind this matter. We believe that the aim of this programmed and concentrated plan is to pave the way to an Israeli aggression against Iraq. It should be noted that this campaign is fiercer than the similar campaign which preceded the 1981 Israeli aggression on the Iraqi reactor. Regarding differences between the administration and Congress, we believe that the position taken by this administration is balanced and we believe that it does not support the imposition of sanctions against us because it is aware of the facts.

[Interviewer] What are the real causes of the tension in U.S.-Iraqi relations? Is the Pentagon's claim that the cause is Iraq's objection to the presence of U.S. Fleets in the Gulf true?

[Al-Mashshat] The cause of the tension is not the Iraqi statements against the U.S. presence in the Gulf but Washington's participation in the unjust camaign against Iraq and the positions taken by Congress that are not based on facts.

[Interviewer] But Iraq did call on the United States to withdraw its fleets from the Gulf.

[Al-Mashshat] President Saddam Husayn made a statement in which he said that there was no justification for the presence of these fleets in the Gulf, and he stressed that if the fleets were there because of some danger threatening the United States then Washington should specify the sources of such danger.

At any rate, Iraq's military power is a defensive power. We only want to defend ourselves and modernize our armed forces.

[Interviewer] How do you view the announcement of U.S.-Israeli cooperation in the development of Israel's missile capabilities?

[Al-Mashshat] We emphasize that any such cooperation would encourage Israel to commit a new aggression and would be a threat to Arab security as a whole. President Saddam Husayn explained this at the Amman summit conference of the Arab Cooperation Council states. The greatest danger in the Middle East lies in Israel's arrogance, defiance of world public opinion, possession of nuclear weapons and means of launching them, and suppression of the Palestinian intifadah.

WHO Asked To Grant 'Palestine' Full Membership

JN0905151590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Iraq has urged the WHO member states to support the state of Palestine's application to join the WHO so that the latter can help provide health care for Palestinians.

In a speech at the 43d session of the WHO General Assembly in Geneva, Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id said: The state of Palestine has the right to full WHO membership, particularly under the current circumstances in which the Zionist occupation authorities are perpetrating the ugliest forms of savage repression and terrorism against Palestinians.

The health minister called on the conferees to give due attention to the obstacles that the Zionist occupation authorities put in the way of Palestinian health institutions to obstruct health and basic medical care services to Palestinians. He added: The occupation authorities are perpetrating indescribable, inhuman, and ugly practices against the Palestinian people because of their courageous intifadah. Their rights are being violated on a daily basis with the most savage forms of repression and terrorism.

Saddam Receives PRC's Wan Li 10 May

JN1005104990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] President Saddam Husayn received this morning Wan Li, chairman of the Chinese National People's Congress Standing Committee, and his delegation.

Mr. Wan conveyed the Chinese leadership's greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to the president, and of progress and prosperity to the Iraqi people.

President Saddam Husayn conveyed through Mr. Wan his greetings to the secretary general of the Chinese

Communist Party and Chinese President and leadership and his wishes of progress and welfare to the friendly Chinese people.

During the meeting, relations between the two friendly countries and ways to promote them were discussed, as well as the situation in the region and world developments.

The meeting was attended by National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and the Chinese charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Cuban Official Conveys Castro Greetings

JN1005171390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 May (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, has received Joel Domenech, Cuban vice president of the Council of State and minister of energy. [titles as received] Domenech conveyed Cuban President Fidel Castro's greetings to President Saddam Husayn and his admiration for his wise leadership in confronting the hostile U.S. and Zionist campaign. He affirmed Cuba's solidarity with Iraq in confronting these campaigns.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asked the Cuban official to convey President Saddam Husayn's greetings to President Fidel Castro.

During the meeting, which was attended by 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhammad Amin, chairman of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization, and the Cuban ambassador in Baghdad, the two sides discussed Iraqi-Cuban relations and how to promote them in various fields.

'Aziz, Perez de Cuellar To Meet in Rome 14 May

JN1005190790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] United Nations, 10 May (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, will hold a meeting with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in Rome on Monday [14 May]. This was officially announced at the United Nations today. The official UN spokeswoman said that Perez de Cuellar will arrive in Rome on Monday after concluding his two-day visit to Albania, which will begin tomorrow as part of his current tour of Europe.

Tariq 'Aziz and Perez de Cuellar are expected to discuss the developments in the implementation of Security Council Resolution No. 598 and direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran.

Ramadan Comments on Arab Summit, Capacitors

JN1005133590 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 10, INA—Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier met here last night, Mr 'Ala'-al-Din Salih, chairman of the new "Misr al-Fatat" party and his accompanying delegation.

Mr Salih confirmed his party's support for President Saddam Husayn's leadership and his heroic national attitudes that restored the Arabs' dignity.

Mr Ramadan stressed that the participation of all Arab parties and organizations in the Arab People's Conference held in Baghdad is the starting point towards unifying the Arab capabilities to achieve the Arab solidarity and stand together to confront all hostile schemes fabricated against the Arab homeland.

Meanwhile, Mr Ramadan met yesterday evening members of the Sudanese delegation participating in the Arab People's Conference for the Solidarity With Iraq.

The first deputy premier said that President Saddam Husayn's announcement on Iraq's success in manufacturing two samples of capacitors that had been confiscated by the intelligence services in Britain and the United States last month was considered a fatal blow to the U.S. British and Zionist circles aimed at hindering the Arab development.

Mr Ramadan added that any progress in Iraq would be for the benefit of the Arab nation emphasizing that the Iraqi scientific, military, political and economic victories would be continued.

The Sudanese delegation praised the wise leadership of President Saddam Husayn that achieved victories not only for Iraq but also for the Arab countries.

Ramadan Given Romanian Prime Minister's Message

JN1005141390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has received a message from Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman. Gheorghe Tarlescu, adviser to the Romanian prime minister, [title as received] handed Ramadan the message during a meeting today.

The Romanian official asked Ramadan to convey the greetings of the Romanian people and leadership to President Saddam Husayn, as well as their eagerness to develop friendship and cooperation with Iraq. Ramadan asked the Romanian official to convey President Saddam Husayn's greetings to the Romanian leadership and people as well as Iraq's satisfaction with the developing relations with Romania and its earnest desire to expand and develop these ties in all fields.

The Romanian message includes Romania's desire to develop cooperation with Iraq in the economic, trade, and scientific fields. The Romanian official hailed the large-scale prosperity in Iraq, indicating Iraq's political and economic status in the world.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Romanian ambassador in Baghdad, the two sides discussed measures that will contribute to strengthening the current, developing relations between the two friendly countries.

World Rally for Solidarity With Iraq Begins

JN1005123690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Under the patronage of leader President Saddam Husayn, the World Friendship Rally for Solidarity with Iraq opened at the Conferences Palace this morning. The rally raises the slogan: Let voices of friends rise in solidarity with Iraq and peace against the imperialist and Zionist assault. Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, deputized for President Saddam Husayn. The national anthem was played on the arrival of the president's representative.

Mr. Hammadi addressed the rally, conveying the greetings of the leader president to the participants. He said: There is common consent that the ideal goal of humanity has always been to maintain a free and honorable life, to move forward toward development in the best and most appropriate circumstances and to make scientific progress. We all realize that this cannot be achieved except through the maintenance of peace and security and coexistence among nations in a manner that allows greater opportunities for development, reciprocal exchange of expertise, and solution to problems that may arise here and there, through dialogue and eagerness for maintaining human life.

This policy is the mainstay of the 17-30 July revolution, which originally proceeded from a humanitarian national ideology believing that persistent action toward a prosperous life and avoidance of non-objective problems and crises is the way to create a better life and firmer stability for individual peoples and all nations collectively.

Hammadi added that the fuss created by imperialist and Zionist circles regarding Iraq's possession of destructive weapons was not isolated from a premeditated aggression; it was, indeed, a preparation for this aggression. The announcement by struggling comrade President Saddam Husayn that we possess the binary chemical weapon and will use it if we are subjected to aggression was clear and proceeded from a desire to entrench peace and deter aggressors. We are certain the aggression against us would have been perpetrated if we had not adopted the position we declared.

It is one of the ironies of this age, he said, that big powers and prominent countries supposed to show genuine desire for peace—or more specifically some circles in these countries—interpret positions and statements in a manner that serves their aggressive objectives and illegitimate interests and covers their alliance with Zionism. They portray as an act of aggression the legitimate right to self-defense and the warning against aggression with a view to deterring it and sparing the region from its evil and tragic aftermaths. The aim is to create the atmosphere for revenge on us because we want progress and seek to utilize science to stay remote from colonialistic domination. Meanwhile, these same circles support and back all Israel's aggressive and destructive acts. Israel's history is full of these acts. We, for instance, have not seen any outrage at, or even any form of objection to, Israel's possession of a nuclear stockpile and its launching of long-range missiles and spy satellites.

Hammadi added: Comrade leader Saddam Husayn's declaration that we are ready to remove all weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons, from the region—provided that Israel does the same and removes its nuclear weapons—is in line with all the efforts we exerted for eight years to repulse the aggression against us before it took place on 4 September 1980 and the attempt to prevent the spread of this aggression. This was despite the intransigence of the Iranian regime, which imagined that the call reflects our weakness and fear of the unknown.

Proclaims Baghdad's Credibility

JN1105082690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 May (INA)—Delegations participating in the World Friendship Rally for Solidarity With Iraq have welcomed President Saddam Husayn's call to eliminate weapons of destruction from the region.

In a statement issued today at the end of their rally, the delegations affirmed that this call is additional testimony to Iraq's credibility, good intentions, and its sincere efforts to safeguard peace and security in the region and the world. In their statement, they called on the United States and the Western countries to bring pressure to bear on Israel to respond to this call. This would constitute the best guarantee for preventing the horrors of total mass destruction wars from descending on the region.

The delegations participating in the rally agreed on the following:

1. To wholeheartedly welcome President Saddam Husayn's call for the elimination of mass destruction weapons from the region, which is additional testimony to Iraq's credibility, good intentions, and sincere efforts to safeguard security and peace in the region and the world. They also called on the United States and the Western countries to bring pressure to bear on Israel to have it respond to this call. This would constitute the best guarantee for preventing the horrors of total mass destruction wars from descending on the region.

2. To support Iraq's principled peace stands, the steps it is taking to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598, and President Saddam Husayn's initiative to hold direct meetings to settle the conflict with Iran in a comprehensive, lasting, and just manner, carry out a comprehensive exchange of POW's, and open air, land, and sea borders

between the two countries. They also emphasized the importance of the international community's assumption of its responsibilities to bring pressure to bear on Iran and force it to submit to the logic of peace.

5. [as received] To clearly affirm that Iraq's possession of binary weapons has taken place within the framework of its right to form its defensive force against outside threats, and that Iraq's nuclear program is geared toward objectives of development, progress, and civilization and does not imperil the safety of the region, especially since Iraq is one of the signatories of the Geneva agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

6. To denounce and condemn the fierce media campaigns waged by media in the United States, the United Kingdom, and by Israel against Iraq, given that these campaigns are part of an imperialist-Zionist scheme to pave the way for an aggression against Iraq like the one launched in 1981, when Israel destroyed Iraq's nuclear plant which was being used for peaceful purposes.

Moroccan Crown Prince Arrives in Baghdad

Meets Saddam

LD0905151390 Rabat MAP in English 1240 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 9 (MAP)—Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed who arrived here Tuesday on a three day state visit to Iraq was received in the afternoon by President Saddam Husayn. The audience was attended by Moroccan Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali and by Vice-President of the Revolution Command Council 'Izzat Ibrahim and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

The crown prince had earlier visited the mausoleum of the unknown soldier where he laid a wreath of flowers on the tomb of the unknown soldier and visited the various wings of the mausoleum which displays an exhibition of Iraqi and Arab weapons including ancient Moroccan arms. Later in the evening, Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed attended a dinner banquet hosted in his honor by 'Izzat Ibrahim.

Before Iraq, the crown prince had visited the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait where he conferred with Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al Nuhayyan and with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah on bilateral relations, means of consolidating Arab solidarity and other issues of mutual concern.

The Iraqi media of Tuesday including the national news agency 'INA' devoted large comments to the crown prince's visit to Iraq pointing out that this visit would contribute to the further consolidation of the brotherly ties existing beween the two countries.

The Iraqi media also highlighted the progress achieved by Morocco in the economic, cultural and architectural areas as well as the role played by the kingdom of the Maghreban, Arab and African levels and its sustained backing to the Palestinian cause.

The media on the other hand lauded Morocco's backing to and solidarity with Iraq in its war against Iran.

Concludes Visit

JN1005134090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 10 May 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 10 May (INA)—His Royal Highness Moroccan Crown Prince Mohamed Ben-Hassan II left Baghdad today after a three-day official visit to Iraq. His Highness Prince Mohamed conveyed an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco on the strong ties between the two states and ways to promote them to serve their joint interests and pan-Arab issues. The Moroccan crown prince also discussed preparations for the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to convene in Baghdad, as well as current Arab developments. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Government Formation, Parties

Likud Negotiating Team

TA1005162490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Minister David Levi says that the Likud negotiating team, with its coalition partners, has already formulated the principles of the basic guidelines of the national government to be set up by Yitzhaq Shamir, and efforts will be made next week to complete the final formulation of the agreements.

Levi added that the criteria for the distribution of portfolios have been laid down, and he believes that personal problems will not constitute an obstacle. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Minister Levi made these remarks during a tour of Tiberias.

Peres To Go Into Opposition

TA1005153090 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 May 90

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Dan Shilon—live; place not given]

[Excerpt] [Shilon] Good evening, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Shilon] Are you absolutely determined to go into the opposition?

[Peres] Yes. The problem is neither the opposition nor a unity government; we are out to wage a struggle for the peace process. I am telling you: Without this, Israel is constantly wounding and endangering itself.

[Shilon] With your permission, I would like to find out, to some extent, how Shim'on Peres the man feels these days.

[Peres] Despite all that has been said, I know that hundreds of thousands of people have been praying in their hearts for the success of this or that so-called trick [reference to Rabin's remarks on 9 May terming the toppling of the government a dirty trick].

[Shilon] You are referring to Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Peres] What were we trying to do? The government was stuck and there was not even the remotest chance to promote the peace process. All of us were unanimous in endorsing the decision to secede from the government so as to seek a way to pursue the peace process, which is a vital and immediate task without which there is absolutely no point in sitting on either a Cabinet seat or in a ministerial limousine. These are of no interest.

We must be serious about what we say, we must keep our word. Many young people, writers, and artists have appealed to me not to veer off my path—and I am staying on this course. [passage omitted]

Rabin Says 'Draw Conclusions'

TA1005180790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 May 90

[Interview with Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin by Le'a Zinder; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Zinder] Mr. Rabin, you said a few weeks ago that if Labor goes into opposition, it is at that time that you will announce your candidacy as head of the Labor Party and as Labor's candidate for prime minister. Are you now ready to compete for the first place in the Labor Party?

[Rabin] I believe that whoever is in the lead—and always, in any system, there is one that is in the lead, that takes the credit more than others when he succeeds and should take the responsibility whenever he fails....[changes thought] I still hope that the one that was in the lead will take the responsibility and will draw conclusions. If this will not happen, I am sure that in preparation for the next elections, once we will be in the opposition, we will have to choose sooner or later the person that will be in the lead and prepare the party for the next elections. I tend to believe that there will be more than one candidate; I believe that there might be even more than two.

NRP Launches Effort

TA1005155090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] NRP [National Religious Party] Minister Zvulun Hammer has launched a last-minute initiative to pursue the negotiations for the establishment of a unity government, despite the Alignment's negative reply to his party's previous initiative. Minister Hammer brought the issue before Prime Minister Shamir and Labor Party leaders Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin.

Shamir was requested by Zvulun Hammer to announce his willingness to set up a unity government. Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin were again asked to respond favorably to the initiative despite their fears and to launch a genuine dialogue with the Likud.

However, Yitzhaq Rabin told Zvulun Hammer that without parity between the Alignment and the Likud, his party will not join Shamir's government.

In a talk with our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz, Yitzhaq Rabin said that some of the NRP demands, including the desire to prevent a paralyzed government, are justifiable. Nevertheless, he reiterated the Alignment's condition that parties whose positions are more extreme than those of the Likud should not be able to tip the scales in the Cabinet.

Mr. Rabin noted that if Yitzhaq Shamir succeeds in forming a government, the Alignment will go into opposition. If he does not, certain given facts will have to be reexamined. He added that, if the Alignment goes into

opposition, it will have to prepare for the next elections, and the sooner this is done the better. Mr. Rabin stressed that if such a development indeed takes place, the question of who is to lead the party will be on the agenda.

Shamir Denies Prior Knowledge of Old City Issue

TA1105103790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the settlement in the Jerusalem Old City Christian Quarter was carried out without his knowledge. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that during a meeting with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who came to brief Shamir on his meeting with Bush, Shamir said that it is doubtful that the affair would have received such extensive coverage overseas had it not been exploited for propaganda against Israel.

Mr. Kollek said that while in the United States, he explained that the Christian Quarter incident had been blown up out of all proportion and that life in Jerusalem is proceeding routinely, despite all the media reports to the contrary.

Kollek claimed he told his hosts that the prime minister had not been involved in establishing the settlement in the Christian hospice. Mr. Kollek suggested that the prime minister ask the U.S. ambassador to ensure that the matter of Jerusalem not be mentioned in the UN Security Council resolution on immigration and the territories.

Shamir Denies TIMES Report on Promises

TA1005085190 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 May 90 p 2

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] The prime minister has denied reports recently published in THE NEW YORK TIMES according to which he did not keep his promises to the U.S. Presidents concerning settlements.

According to the prime minister, he promised the Presidents to abide by the coalition agreement, and he did so.

Prime Minister Shamir's associates have said that he believes that only the Americans can help promote the peace initiative.

Treasury Submits Plan for Immigrant Absorption

TA1005172190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] The Treasury this evening released the principles of the plan it intends to submit to the Cabinet on Sunday as part of the preparations for the absorption of immigrants. Our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that expenditures on immigrant absorption in the current fiscal year will amount to 4 billion new Israeli shekels, and to well over 6 billion shekels in each of the coming years.

The Cabinet will be asked to approve a supplementary budget of 2.1 billion shekels for this year, and to increase the budget deficit by 1.3 billion shekels. At the same time, the ministers will be asked to approve a cut of 550 million shekels in the budget.

The Cabinet will dedicate most of its upcoming session to housing affairs; the Treasury plans 70,000 housing starts this year.

The Treasury will submit detailed plans for a considerable simplification of bureaucratic processes, and foreign investors will be allowed to participate in bids for projects in Israel.

The government will allocate 1 billion shekels for mortgages for new immigrants. It will also help pay the salaries of immigrants in the first six months of their employment. To that end, 64 million shekels will be allocated this year and 128 million shekels next year.

In terms of infrastructure, 170 million shekels will be earmarked this year to develop industrial parks, to upgrade roads, sewage, and water mains, and to build another 180 school classrooms. Almost 200 million shekels will be allocated next year for infrastructure projects.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes WHO Decision on PLO

TA1005175090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem this evening noted with satisfaction the move of the WHO conference in Geneva to put off a decision on the PLO's application to be accepted as a state member to a later date. The spokesman told our political correspondent Arye Golan that this postponement will hopefully join the failure of the PLO's attempts last year to improve its status in UNESCO, the World Tourism Organization, and the UN General Assembly. There is no room at all for the PLO in the organizations of the international community, the Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem said.

GDR Minister: Ties After German Unification

TA1005105590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] East Germany's foreign minister, Markus Meckel, says his country recognizes its debt to Holocaust survivors but can only provide token compensation because of its dire economic situation. Meckel was speaking with Knesset Member Shevah Weiss at the European Parliament talks in Strasbourg.

On the issue of ties between East Germany and Israel, Meckel said his country is heading toward normalization, but an agreement can only be finalized following the unification of the two Germanys.

'Sincere Potential Partner' in Nuclear-Free Bid

JN1005160690 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1335 GMT 10 May 90

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: On more than one occasion recently, President Mubarak called for the Middle East to be declared free of nuclear and other weapons of wholesale destruction. A similar call came from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. About two and a half years ago, specifically on 12 September 1987, opening the Tenth Mediterranean Games, Syrian President al-Asad called for the Mediterranean basin to be declared a nuclear-free zone. Surely, all these are positive calls to be commended by all peace-loving circles and whoever cares about the well-being of the people of the region and the sanctity of human life.

In contrast to the recklessness shown by certain Arab writers and officials, including Libya's al-Qadhdhafi, urging that Arab states acquire nuclear weapons, the three presidents have thus displayed a positive sense of responsibility both in political and human terms.

The call for Arab countries to avail themselves of lethal nuclear weapons is negative and destructive and effectively drags Arab states and other regional powers into a nuclear arms race in which the specter of nuclear terror and the nightmare of mass annihiliation will overshadow the peoples of the area. As if the bloodshed, suffering, and destruction our peoples have had to endure from wars fought with conventional weaponry were not enough. As if the Arabs and Israelis have not already squandered enough of their resources on conventional weapons.

In any case, if the Egyptian, Syrian, and Iraqi presidents' call for the area to be made free of nuclear weapons and arms of wholesale destruction is genuine, they must know that Israel is a sincere potential partner in any serious and well-intentioned effort to bring the idea to fruition. Twelve years ago, and from the floor of the UN General Assembly, Israel officially urged the Arab states and all other Mideast nations to negotiate a collective pact or treaty to keep our region free of nuclear armaments. Israel has since repeated the call from the Knesset floor and from other official international forums, and the Israeli offer still stands.

However, the question to be asked is whether wisdom will prevail and whether the rulers of our region will work to forestall a catastrophe before it is too late, and to invalidate studies published in the eighties that sounded the alarm that in the absence of an overall solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute, there is bound to be a nuclear war in the Middle East by the end of the century—especially given that the major powers are keen to spare themselves the scourge of war.

Editorial Views 'Test' of U.S. Position

TA1105150690 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 11 May 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A New Test of the U.S. Position"]

[Text] The United States is facing a new test of its official position regarding Jewish settlement in the occupied territories, including the eastern sector of Jerusalem. This test has surfaced in the UN Security Council corridors where an announcement of this position is expected following the current debates about the settlement of Jewish immigrants to Israel in the occupied territories.

In truth, Washington has been accustomed to using its traditional veto right against any resolution not favored by the Israeli Government, even if this veto were, in general, contradictory to its publicly declared foreign policy.

Although the U.S. Administration has reiterated its opposition to Jewish settlement in the occupied land on many occasions, these days it might reject any resolution that condemns such settlement in the eastern part of Jerusalem. This is due to the declarations of the House of Representatives and the Senate that "united Jerusalem is the capital of Israel." These declarations elicited, and continue to elicit very stormy reactions in all Arab capitals.

As news agencies report, however, the decision is now up to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Will he support the declaration of Congress, or will he act within the officially stated framework of the U.S. Administration?

The outcome of the test which Washington is facing in this context, and at this particular time when there is an aggravation of the situation in the region, will determine the stance of the Arab states toward the current U.S. policy. We presume, at the least, that all these states will understand the full and decisive meaning of the U.S. position. For example, what is the value of Baker's own proposals for a political settlement in the region if a veto is used?

Druze Found New Progressive Socialist Party

TA1005153690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Today, Israeli Druze founded a new party called the Progressive Socialist Party [Hamiflaga Hasotzialistit Hamitqademet]. The party was founded at the initiative of a group of young men from the village of al-Makr in the Lower Galilee. HADHA AL-USBU', a Haifa local paper, notes that the name and political platform of the new party are identical to Walid Junblatt's party in Lebanon.

King Hopes Syria Will Participate in Summit

JN1005105790 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0750 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Manama, 10 May (WAKH)—King Husayn of Jordan has stressed that the extraordinary Arab summit will be held in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

In a statement to the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ published today, the king said that all the Arabs should appreciate Baghdad as the venue of the summit in light of Iraq's struggle for and defense of the Arab nation, the sacrifices it has made and the martyrs it has provided in defense of the Arab homeland.

The Jordanian monarch said the current unjust campaigns against Iraq provide further motives for holding the extraordinary summit in Baghdad at this particular time.

These campaigns target not only Iraq but the entire Arab nation, said the king.

Asked about current Arab efforts to persuade Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to attend the Baghdad summit, King Husayn expressed hope that Syria will attend and said he believed it will not be easy to justify Syria's absence from the summit in Baghdad.

The Jordanian monarch expressed conviction that the Iraqi leadership will never show any negligence and that it will painstakingly receive all the Arab leaders and extend to them all hospitality and care when they arrive in Baghdad.

The king urged all parties to rise above their wounds and participate in the Baghdad summit. He stressed that this nation will last, pointing out the need for all Arabs to do all that is necessary to reach agreement on all issues through meaningful and constructive dialogue.

Asked about the truth of some earlier reports citing Arab diplomatic sources in Amman that the summit date will be 15 May, the Jordanian monarch asserted that the summit will be held this month, specifically before the end of the month.

Editorial Urges 'All Arab Leaders' to Summit

JN1005111090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
10 May 90 pp 1,19

[Editorial: "The Summit of Pan-Arab Security"]

[Text] Because the projected Arab summit in Baghdad has been imposed by unprecedented dangers and made urgent by the challenges to the present and future of the Arab nation, the Arab masses cannot believe that there is any reason whatsoever preventing all the Arab leaders from taking part in this summit.

In light of this conviction and strong confidence in the determination of the Arab leaders to assume their responsibilities and fulfill their pan-Arab role in a manner commensurate with the grave dangers and challenges facing the nation, the Arab masses appeal to all Arab leaders to set a good example by rising above their differences and avoiding any divisions. This is because time has become a decisive factor in the defensive confrontation which has been imposed on the Arabs. This calls for using the best means to build our intrinsic Arab power and concerting our efforts. The projected summit is, in essence, the summit of pan-Arab security. Therefore, it deserves to become an arena unifying all Arab leaders, and a turning point toward a new Arab reality, speaking with one Arab voice, transforming the Arab peace call into an effective role to build peace, and turning the Arab warning of aggression into a strong force to prevent and deter this aggression.

Arab peaceful intentions are met with sympathy throughout most of the world. However, these intentions have not yet been able to achieve the desired comprehensive and just peace. Thus, we must understand that we can only build peace through our ability to create the equation that will make the aggressors accept the peace option. Therefore, it behooves us to possess this ability as soon as possible.

No doubt, the Arab leaders can mobilize the Arab forces with this objective in mind. They have the opportunity during the summit in Baghdad of turning aspirations into a reality. Therefore, we renew our appeal to all the Arab leaders to attend the summit in order to transfer the nation to a new reality.

Premier Badran Discusses Political Problems

PM1005154190 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
15 May 90 pp 18-20

[Interview with Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran by Salih Qallab in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Qallab] It has been repeatedly said that Jordan is facing some dangers. What are these dangers?

[Badran] Jordan is located in the heart of the Arab homeland and it has always faced the same challenges and aggressions as the Arab nation. As you know, it has the longest confrontation line with Israel. The absence of an honorable peace that would enable the Palestinian people to have their own independent state on their national soil will keep the entire region tense, and Jordan will continue to be exposed to danger, particularly with the increasing immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and intensification of settlement in the West Bank and Gaza.

[Qallab] As clouds gather and threaten the peace process in the Middle East, do you expect a military aggression against Jordan?

[Badran] As I have already said, the absence of a just and honorable peace puts the entire region in a state of tension and anxiety. While there should be accurate calculation and extreme care taken regarding everything Israel does, the growth of Arab power and advanced

military capabilities should make the Israeli leadership think a thousand times before committing any aggression.

[Qallab] Jordan has for some time now been active on the Arab and international levels regarding the issue of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. Has it obtained any guarantees in this connection?

[Badran] His Majesty King Husayn has advanced several initiatives at the Arab and international levels with great effect spotlighting this disturbing and dangerous phenomenon. The initiatives also helped to put public pressure on the Soviet Union and the United States to reconsider the matter. The strength of the Arab argument is in its simplicity, because it is impermissible by any human or legal standard to solve the problem of any human being's right to emigrate by removing another human being from his own land. Intensive, maximum Arab efforts are continuing with a view to convincing the Soviet Union of the seriousness of the matter and persuading it to initiate steps that would take into consideration the Palestinian people's right to defend their land and existence.

[Qallab] During Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Amman there was some talk of a Jordanian-Palestinian joint move. What are the dimensions of such a move, and in which direction will it be made?

[Badran] President Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit was an opportunity to discuss all issues related to the Palestinian cause with its Arab and international dimensions. The talks focused on activating PLO-Jordanian coordination institutions in the political, informational, cultural, educational, economic, and social fields and in everything related to the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza. There was emphasis on the need for an Arab summit meeting to discuss all issues, especially the settlement offensive and Arab moves to support the blessed intifadah and the people's steadfastness and to lay the groundwork for a just and comprehensive peace.

[Qallab] There have been repeated incidents of infiltration from Jordan into the occupied territory. Is any particular party or are any particular parties behind that? What is their aim?

[Badran] Infiltration attempts are limited, and some are of an individual nature. The influential Arab quarters are fully aware of the importance of preserving Jordan's security and stability and the importance of not allowing Israel to exploit any circumstance.

[Qallab] You have recently met with a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] delegation. Will the Palestinian factions open offices in Jordan, as they have in some other Arab states?

[Badran] This matter was not discussed with the PFLP delegation, and it will not be discussed in the future.

[Qallab] With the Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and the mounting Israeli threats, is Jordan interested in reviving the eastern front? On what basis would that happen, and which states would be likely to be part of that front?

[Badran] Right now Jordan is interested in an Arab summit conference, and we hope that such a conference would lead to a comprehensive Arab strategy capable of containing all the dangers threatening Jordan or any other Arab country.

[Qallab] What, in your view, are the causes of the Western campaign against Iraq at this particular time? Is there a real possibility of an Israeli aggression against Iraqi installations?

[Badran] Iraq emerged triumphant from its war with Iran and has made brilliant progress in its ability to possess and handle sophisticated arms. It seems that the aim of the Western concentration on fraternal Iraq is to prevent it from obtaining modern technology that would increase its impregnability and that of the Arab nation—which, we hope, would deter aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation.

[Qallab] Jordan has recently been repeatedly critical of U.S. policy on the Middle East. Do you expect Washington to change its position and put pressure on Israel to make it go along with the peace process?

[Badran] U.S. policy is formulated in a complex way in which many factors interact, dictated by the nature of American society and the many powers secured by the Congress after the Vietnam war, particularly on matters of foreign policy. As a result, the U.S. Administration is unable to implement the minimum stipulations in its declared policies either on the Middle East or on numerous other international issues. The Jewish pressure group's vast influence on Congress does not make us optimistic that the administration will put pressure on Israel, but that should not prevent us from continuing to work for the creation of effective and influential Arab pressure through clear and unified Arab opinion.

[Qallab] You assumed your responsibilities when the country was going through a severe political and economic crisis. What have you achieved in the economic and political fields over the past months?

[Badran] The government has acted on three levels: political, economic, and social. On the political level, it has realized several achievements of a political dimension. It has released all forms of public freedom. Cooperation with the House of Representatives is proceeding in a healthy and promising direction. All legislation consolidating democracy has been passed. In the economic field, the crisis has been contained and the dinar further stabilized. The government is going ahead with the national program for economic reform which will reduce the budget deficit, increase exports, and create suitable conditions for more investment. There will be

serious concentration on the social field with the intention of introducing firm policies for combating poverty and unemployment. The government will also concentrate on administrative reform as an essential instrument of social progress.

[Qallab] The corruption charges made by the Jordanian Parliament against some former officials and reported by the Arab and Western press have, according to some, reduced confidence in Jordan and discouraged investments. Have you discovered any major violations under the previous government? Will your government really apply the slogan, "Where did you get it [wealth] from"?

[Badran] Combating and eliminating corruption in any society ultimately leads to greater confidence in that society and enhances the chances of work and investment. Regarding the corruption cases, they are now in the hands of the attorney general. Their discussion is the responsibility of the judicial authorities. The government will soon be submitting legislation to the House of Representatives on combating economic crime in addition to the illicit profit law.

[Qallab] There are fears that the current democratic process may be abandoned. What are the guarantees that this process is not temporary and merely intended to absorb the effects of last April's incidents?

[Badran] Commitment to democracy was a position taken by King Husayn in a bid to organize society and create a modern state capable of survival. The people have genuinely responded to that choice which, God willing, will not be abandoned. Democracy is a way of life, not a temporary condition or a number of administrative decisions which can be rescinded. The real guarantee for any democratic society is full commitment by all to what is needed for the creation and preservation of such a society within the framework of constitutional institutions. That is the situation at present, and we will seek to perpetuate and strengthen it.

[Qallab] It has been rumored that the public is critical of the way the National Charter Committee was formed and that it is feared that the Charter is meant as a way around the Constitution. On what basis was the committee formed, and how do you envisage the Charter in light of the current Jordanian circumstances?

[Badran] In his message assigning the honor of drafting the Charter to a select group of citizens, King Husayn spoke of the supremacy of the Constitution and the necessity of adhering to its letter and spirit when drafting the Charter. After that, I do not see how anyone could contemplate violating or bypassing the Constitution. The formation of the committee, which was done in accordance with a royal decree, took into consideration all political trends and included prominent people with legal experience. The main concepts of the Charter are, of course, a matter for the committee members to decide in accordance with the royal message.

[Qallab] The Palestinians in Jordan constitute approximately half the population. How do you reconcile their participation in political life with their commitment to the PLO?

[Badran] I do not see any conflict between being a Palestinian Arab citizen in Jordan, defending this country with his life and blood, and being someone striving to end the occupation and free the kinfolk in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

[Qallab] The Lebanese experience is there for all to see. Have you detected any attempts to carry out acts of subversion in Jordan? Which are the parties trying to undermine Jordan's national unity?

[Badran] I do not see any room for comparison between the Jordanian situation and the Lebanese situation. Jordan, thank God, is a cohesive society with solid institutions, particularly the military institution which defends the country's security externally and protects its entity internally.

[Qallab] Jordan's economy depends to a large extent on Arab aid. Have the states concerned honored their commitments?

[Badran] Last year we gratefully received aid from our brothers in the Arab states, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf states. We are certain that the brothers will continue to support this steadfast country until its plight is over.

CBJ Head Says Reserves Up, No Devaluation

JN1005125590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10-11 May 90 pp 1,5

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES Staff Writer]

[Text] Amman—The foreign currency reserves of Jordan now stand at $490 million, including an amount of $20 million received Wednesday as aid from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the government is confident that the reserves could be raised by another $150 million by the end of 1990, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi said Wednesday.

The reserves include an amount of $100 million in the form of deposits received from the central banks of Gulf Arab states under a special arrangement, al-Nabulsi told an informal press briefing. These deposits, he said, are "the second line of reserves for a period of five years" and the depositors have equivalent reciprocatory deposits in Jordanian dinars. The CBJ expects to receive another $100 million in such deposits by the end of June, al-Nabulsi added.

"They (the depositors) get eight per cent interest on the dinar, and we try to get as much as we can on the dollars," the governor said.

The receipt of $20 million in aid from the UAE raised to $43 million the total financial assistance Jordan received

this year from external sources. Al-Nabulsi confirmed Wednesday that Qatar had given $10 million and other official sources said Jordan received $13 million from aid agencies.

Al-Nabulsi affirmed that $350 million of the CBJ reserves represented 35 per cent of public deposits in foreign currency held by commercial banks. CBJ regulations stipulate that all commercial banks deposit 35 per cent of the foreign exchange deposits of their clients with the Central Bank. Al-Nabulsi dismissed assertions that this amount "constituted a loan to the Central Bank" from the commercial banking sector.

"This is the money of the Jordanians, whether held by the Central Bank or the commercial banks," he said. "It is also part of Jordan's reserves; (it is) not the money of the commercial banks."

"In fact we are not using legislation which allows us to expropriate 100 per cent of foreign currency deposits of Jordanians with commercial banks," he said. "Furthermore, the banks are getting full interest on the deposit with the Central Bank."

The CBJ governor briefly reviewed the monetary developments related to foreign currency reserves in the one year since he assumed office. "One year ago, we were in the red," he said. "Foreign exchange reserves were less than zero since the Central Bank had spent $150 million of (the mandatory) commercial bank deposits in addition to another $60 million borrowed against (CBJ) gold (reserves)." During the one year since then, "we not only made up (for the shortfall) but also registered, at the highest point about three months back, $500 million in reserves," he said.

Jordan also paid an amount of between $150 million to $160 million in arrears of interest in foreign debts in the first quarter of this year, he added.

Al-Nabulsi said homeward remittances by Jordanian expatriates were between $600 million to $650 million—"a big disappointment"—in 1989, but the CBJ expected the figure to go up to $750 million to $800 million—an increase of 25 per cent—in 1990. "The results of the first quarter are very promising, and we expect the same in the second quarter," he said but did not give any figures.

The CBJ has no plans to ask Jordanians to disclose their foreign bank accounts or take any other action on them, he said.

In light of the situation in the reserves and the fact that commercial banks are mostly shouldering the task of meeting foreign exchange requirements for imports and other invisibles through their receipt of expatriate remittances and export payments, "there is a balance" in the monetary situation in the Kingdom, al-Nabulsi said. The CBJ is stepping in with "very small amounts" of foreign exchange supply to the commercial market, he added.

"We are not losing reserves," he said and voiced confidence that there would not be any need to revise the exchange rate of the dinar for the next two years, particularly that the "present trend in trade balance is also stable." There is an "excluded possiblity" that the import/export ratio could shift, but "some factors indicate a better situation."

The CBJ governor was replying to a pointed question on rumours that a further devaluation of the dinar was in the offing. He also explained that a statement he issued earlier this week dismissing such suggestions and cautioning the public against speculation was not "a reaction to what happened in the market in as much as a (response) to silly rumours."

According to the CBJ governor, the shift in the dinar's rate in the "unofficial (black) market" after the rumours surfaced was about one per cent of the official rate while the international view is that any change in the value of a currency was significant if the shift was at least 10 per cent. "Three weeks ago the (unofficial) dollar rate was in fact even slightly less than the official rate," he said.

"Even at the best of times in Jordan, there was a difference of a few fils between the official rate and the rate of the moneychangers," he recalled.

Al-Nabulsi pointed out that the CBJ's daily exchange rate bulletins reflected the bank's policy of moving up and down with fluctuations in the international currency market. The CBJ-set rate of 667/671 fils rate for the dollar for Wednesday reflected the downward trend of the American currency in the international market in the last two days, he said.

Al-Nabulsi confirmed that the Central Bank held 750,000 ounces of gold in reserve, part of it hypothecated against a loan of $60 million last year. "We have already repaid $20 million of this loan, and may pay another $20 million in the next two weeks," he said. The loan will be repaid in full and the hypothecation arrangement terminated before the end of the year, he added.

The CBJ had no plans to buy and boost its gold reserves, he said in reply to a question.

Answering another question on the impact of the Central Bank's recent decision to float commercial bank interest rates, al-Nabulsi said it was only natural "that the high liquidity of the banks will push down interest rates."

The governor said the CBJ had submitted to the government "four possible scenarios" related to the financially-troubled Petra Bank and the government had not yet taken a decision on the issue. Petra Bank, which the Economic Security Committee (ESC) took over in August last year, "is in a very bad situation," he said. "It has been losing a lot of money and is still losing."

He said the extent of the losses incurred by Petra Bank, as well as the Jordan Gulf Bank which was also taken over by the ESC in August, was not clear yet. "It is a very, very complicated task...," he said. One of the two government-appointed auditors of Petra Bank, Alfred Atherton, has submitted a preliminary report and the

other, Saba and Company, is continuing its task, he said. However, "we have reached tentative conclusions...that the shareholders of both institutions have lost one hundred per cent of their investment."

"This is not the full extent of the loss," he said.

Investigations by the martial law authorities, under whose powers the two banks were taken over by the ESC, helped by 12 representatives of other banks in Jordan have produced "50 to 60 files which represent about two-thirds of the cases," according to the CBJ governor. However, he said, "these are the technical details (and) the real prosecution" of those involved will take some more time.

The Central Bank chief said Jordan expected to finalise its debt rescheduling agreement with the London Club of creditor banks and financial institutions in another month. Agreement in principle was reached with the London Club last year, and Jordan has already paid all interests in arrears to the club's members. The agreement that remains to be formalised relates to repayment of principal amounts due until mid-1991, representing a total of $575 millions.

"There is no basic disagreement with the London Club," said al-Nabulusi, who, along with Finance Minister Basil Jardanah, visited London last month for talks with the club. He rejected a suggestion that the delay in finalising the agreement favoured Jordan in that payments were also delayed. "We have paid all interest in arrears," he said, and the only issue being handled under the agreement was principal, "which we have to repay anyway."

Al-Nabulsi ruled out licensing new banks in Jordan. "There will be no new licences at all," he said. "In fact, our plans call for the elimination of some banks through mergers under mutually agreed terms," he said without elaboration but adding that "we will not be imposing it on anyone."

Al-Nabulsi disclosed that the accounts of 40 of the 70 moneychangers whose businesses were closed down in February last year had already been liquidated, and a new law was being drafted by the legal committee of the Council of Ministers to govern the licensing and operations of moneychangers. It is premature to disclose details of the proposed legislation, which has to pass through the cabinet as well as parliament before being enacted, he said, but "the policy is not to allow a big number of operators and fragmentation of the field."

"It will not be the same number" as last February when the government of Zayd al-Rifa'i used martial law powers to order the closure of all moneychanging establishments except those operated by banks, he added.

Column Notes National Charter Impact on Islamists

JN1105085690 Amman AL-RAYAH AL-ISLAMIYAH in Arabic 11 May p 7

["Viewpoint" column by Dr. Bassam al-'Umush: "The Islamists and the Charter"]

[Text] The [National] Charter Committee has been established and includes few Islamists. Some people are wondering about the Charter: What is it for? What will it include? Has it already been written, and will it be submitted to the committee just for review? Will it be drafted from the oral proposals of the committee members? What can emerge from a committee with such a structure?

We Islamists share these questions with the people. Furthermore, we wonder: What will the Islamists get out of the Charter? Will it result in an Islamic constitution by which the rule of God can be implemented? Will the Charter increase the popularity of the Islamists? Can a Charter be formulated without recognizing others and giving legitimacy to their existence? Will these people, who have money and backing, use this legitimacy to take people away from the Islamists by buying them because they are in need? Will the Islamists change their tone when talking about nationalism and give it legitimacy? Will there be a national reconciliation among the Islamists, the regime, and those who have different ideologies? Will the Islamists agree to share with others the popular Islamic credibility? And is the fact that shari'ah ulemas and scholars are not included [in the Charter committee] the real response to the elders of Zion?

The issue is not who is on the committee—but things must be clear and principled. The policy of compromise solutions may worsen rather than improve the situation.

Islamic Trend Wins Majority in Student Elections

JN1105074890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 May 90 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] Amman—AL-RA'Y—In the first student union elections in 16 years, representatives of the Islamic trend won the majority of seats in the preparatory committee for the University of Jordan student union. The results were announced at dawn yesterday.

Representatives of the Islamic trend won more than 96 percent of the 85 seats. They won 82 seats in various faculties, while other trends and the independents won only three seats in the Faculty of Law.

A number of House of Representatives members from the Islamic bloc attended part of the election and vote-counting proceedings. [passage omitted]

Amal Says UK, U.S. Must Pay Price for Hostages

NC1005171490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] In a statement to REUTER today, Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, said that the remaining 15 Western hostages will not be released unless Britain and the United States pay a price. The issue is now in their hands, and they must hold contacts with the kidnappers if they wish great progress to be made.

Al-Musawi asked how those who have taken risks by taking hostages for three or four years can release them without a price.

Amal, Hizballah To Meet, Observe Cease-Fire

NC1105064290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] As a result of the intensive contacts between the al-Biqa' followup committee and spiritual and political leaders concerning the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah, the Amal Movement and Hizballah have agreed to the following:

1. To observe a comprehensive cease-fire in Iqlim al-Tuffah as of 0800 today; and

2. To convene a meeting between Amal and Hizballah representatives under the auspices of Syria and Iran.

The followup committee urged the two sides to abide fully by the agreement, noting that the two sides will meet at the Syrian military command in 'Anjar within the next 24 hours.

Damascus Agreement Essential

NC1105152490 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, said that any constructive intiative concerning the Amal-Hizballah conflict should be encouraged, he added that this conflict will not be resolved until Iran, Syria, the Amal Movement, and Hizballah cooperate in finding a new mechanism to implement the Damascus agreement. Al-Musawi said that there is no need to find an alternative to the Damascus agreement.

Commenting on statements by some Israeli officials to the effect that they have no moral objection to open negotiations with Hizballah concerning the prisoners and the detainees, al-Musawi said: The faithful have every moral, religious, doctrinal, and human objection to negotiating with the Israelis and to any action that would give a semblance of recognition to the Zionist entity.

Cabinet Holds Meeting, Approves Appointments

NC1005154190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 May 90

[Statement by Information and Justice Minister Edmond Rizq following a cabinet meeting held in West Beirut on 10 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] The cabinet held a meeting under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi and in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and the ministers. The meeting lasted for six hours.

His excellency the president began the meeting by reviewing the results of the summit conference held yesterday with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and Syrian officials. His excellency the president informed the cabinet that an understanding was reached on all the subjects discussed during this conference. These subjects included the Middle East issue, the Arab summit conference, the internal Lebanese situation, and implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. His excellency affirmed that there was complete understanding, that cooperation exists and continues to exist with fraternal Syria, and that pertinent ministers will continue contacts to draw up the detailed basis for cooperation in the various fields.

His excellency the president thanked His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad for the welcome accorded him and for the positive, open, and supportive position which he showed toward Lebanon.

Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss also spoke at the meeting, affirming that the course being pursued by the Lebanese legitimacy is correct. He noted the importance of the time factor and the need to put an end to the national suffering resulting from the cycle of excessive violence in the country, particularly the mad violence being witnessed in the eastern area. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister al-Huss said that the appeal to legitimacy to fill the vacuums and discharge duties cannot be disregarded. Legitimacy must respond to this appeal. But means should be available to ensure the success of legitimacy wherever it may be. He stressed the importance of building the army and the need for speech not to be monopolized, particularly on behalf of the Christians, by any party. He praised the continuing patriotic role which the Maronite Patriarchate in Bkirki is playing.

The cabinet then discussed general conditions and various other issues. It approved appointments of heads of diplomatic missions. The announcement of these appointments will be delayed until approval is received from the states to which these ambassadors will be accredited.

The cabinet also approved military appointments in the Army to fill some positions and to compensate for any shortage in the military establishment at this stage.

The cabinet then discussed the appointment of governors. It approved the appointment of George Samahah as governor of Beirut and Amin Hammud as governor of Jabal Lubnan Governorate. The cabinet paid tribute to the efforts made by Interior Ministry Director General Samih al-Sulh during his service as acting governor of Jabal Lubnan. The cabinet appointed Simon Karam as governor of al-Biqa'. The outgoing governor Diyab Yunis will be appointed a director general when administrative appointments are approved. The cabinet appointed Ghazi Zu'aytir as governor of al-Nabatiyah.

During its discussions, the cabinet concentrated on the implementation of the Beirut security plan, the establishment of a model security oasis in this area, and on the provision of the means for the success of this plan in cooperation with the parties concerned, particularly the Syrian Arab Forces.

The cabinet also discussed the rise in the exchange rate of foreign currencies in relations to the Lebanese pound. The cabinet maintains that the deteriorated security situation and the partitionist situation in the eastern area are the main causes for the rise in the exchange rate of the dollar and the drop in that of the Lebanese pound. The cabinet emphasized the need to adopt the necessary measures to prevent this mad rise, which has no economic basis. [passage omitted]

The cabinet affirms that it is determined to end the partitionist situation in the eastern area and the disobedience being led by the former army commander which has so far led to the destruction of the infrastructure and residential areas and the displacement and killing of people. The killing which is taking place each day in the eastern area causes grave concern and greatly increases the responsibility of those who cause and perpetrate it. [passage omitted]

Battle Reports From Beirut, South

Lebanese Forces Respond To 'Awn

NC1005143790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] 'Awn's gunmen shelled the Juniyah area with five shells in three volleys from 1500 to 1540 today.

Meanwhile, a responsible source in the Lebanese Forces has responded to 'Awn's latest threat. He said 'Awn's threat to close the coast is quixotic. He added: We are used to such threats, but they are of no concern to us because he is incapable of implementing them.

The source asserted that the eastern areas' legal ports are operating regularly and noted that several vessels anchored and unloaded at these ports today in a normal way. The source said one of the vessels was the Hasan Ba', which entered Juniyah port this morning, unloaded its cargo, and left at noon today without being intercepted.

The source pointed out the Lebanese Forces Navy controls the sea and stressed that no ship will be allowed into the Golden Beach port; therefore, all 'Awn can do is shell innocent civilians. He announced that the Lebanese Forces are operating naval patrols off the Golden Beach to prevent any vessel from heading toward it.

Sources close to 'Awn said today that the naval blockade on the coast extending from al-Madfun to Beirut is serious and affirmed that they have adequate means to warn ships attempting to approach Lebanese territorial waters. However, the sources declined to reveal these means. The same sources said any ship attempting to anchor at the aforementioned coast will cause a new round of violence and noted that yesterday's shelling of Jubayl coast was a message to the Lebanese Forces that the coast remains open to all or to no one. The sources close to 'Awn had cited the lifting of the sea blockade on the Golden Beach as a condition for recanting their decision.

'Awn Artillery

NC1005193490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 10 May 90

[Excerpt] Lebanese Forces positions and residential neighborhoods along the newly-created combat lines in Beirut are coming under shellfire from the artillery emplacements of the 'Awn gunmen at the rate of one shell every five minutes.

Earlier, the intensity of the shelling had eased following mad bombardment between 1600 and 2000 today directed by the 'Awn gunmen against residential neighborhoods in al-Ashrafiyah, al-Jummayzah, Mar Mikha'il, the Beirut port area, al-Nab'ah, Sinn al-Fil, and the coastal, central, and upper Kasrawan regions. The 'Awn gunmen used incendiary phosphorous and cluster bombs and 155-mm and 130-mm shells.

The Lebanese Forces positions along the al-Dubayyah-Nahr al-Kalb combat line also came under machine gun fire. The 'Awn gunmen violated two cease-fire agreements arranged by Abbot Bulus Nu'man, the first at 1915 and the second at 1930. In the first instance, the shelling of al-Ashrafiyah continued past 2020, and in the second instance, the Kasrawan coast was shelled until about 2000.

The 'Awn gunmen's shelling also extended to West Beirut where eight people were wounded. Shells fell in the areas of Wadi Abu Jamil, al-Barbir, Zuqaq al-Balat, and Corniche al-Mazra'ah. [passage omitted]

East Beirut Crossings Closed

NC1105104090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] The Beirut port crossing point came under concentrated shellfire at 1215 today from 'Awn artillery emplacements. According to preliminary reports, four people were injured in the bombardment.

Meanwhile, 'Awn's gunmen continue to block East Beirut crossing points. Cars and pedestrians were prevented from using the points for the third day in a row.

Israeli, Lahd Militia Actions

NC1005170190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Occupation forces have released the three people they detained the night before last on the outskirts of Yatar village. However, they killed the farmer 'Ali Hamad Kurani.

Amal Movement sources have denied a report by the Voice of the South radio, the mouthpiece of the agent Lahd militia, that Kurani was killed in a clash with an agent militia patrol inside the border strip. Amal sources affirmed that Kurani was detained while he was working on his land. He was led to the border strip area and liquidated under torture in one of the agents' centers in Bint Jubayl.

Security sources have reported from western al-Biqa' that last night resistance fighters attacked an agent Lahd militia position near Kafr Huna. They clashed with militiamen for 20 minutes, using automatic weapons and rockets. The sources said that the resistance fighters used a rocket to hit quarters where militiamen slept. No information about casualties was available. Subsequently, a joint enemy and agent force carried out a search for the resistance fighters which lasted until dawn. During the search operation, the force fired dozens of flares.

This morning, an enemy force consisting of three vehicles, including an M-113 armored troop carrier, advanced to the outskirts of al-Dallafah and searched three houses on the pretext of looking for weapons and explosives. Members of this force reportedly opened fire with automatic weapons inside these houses to terrorize the people.

In al-'Urqub, last night a force of enemy soldiers and agent militiamen stormed Shab'a, which is located within the operations area of the Norwegian UN contingent. The force searched a number of houses on the pretext of searching for weapons and ammunition. It then detained Sulayman Ghadir and Qasim Qayduh and took them to al-Khiyam prison. The enemy force also stormed Kafr Hamam and detained one person.

Israeli helicopters flew at dawn today over the slopes of Mount Hermon and the villages of Kafr Shuba, Shab'a, al-Habbariyah, and al-Majidiyah for about an hour and dropped a number of flares.

This morning, enemy artillery emplacements on Zummarayya hill shelled the Mimis sector, causing material damage.

According to reports from the occupied border strip, the Israeli occupation forces have reinforced some of their positions there. During the past 24 hours, 15 armored vehicles passed through the Metulla crossing point and advanced toward the al-Tayyibah-al-Qantarah and al-'Ayshiyah-al-Rayhan axes. The occupation forces brought in four long-range guns and installed them on the southern edge of (al-Mari) village.

Regarding the enemy's attempt to annex the Shab'a farms, reports from al-'Urqub say that the occupation forces have begun widening the road which they have built inside the farms. Shab'a residents called on the responsible quarters to act quickly to stop the attempt to annex the farms because this will deprive Shab'a of 70 percent of its agricultural land.

Israeli APC Attacked

NC1105123590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1111 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] A national resistance group today detonated an explosive device as an armored personnel carrier [APC] of the Israeli occupation forces and their agents was traveling along the Alma al-Sha'b road. The troop carrier was destroyed and all its passengers killed or wounded. The enemy forces immediately raked the area with heavy machine guns, raided several houses, and arrested a number of citizens.

Foreign Minister Meets Iranian Envoy

JN1105052590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today met with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam.

The meeting was attended by Mahmud Hashemi-Rafsanjani, head of the Syria and Lebanon Desk, and Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus. The talks dealt with Syrian-Iranian ties and issues of common interest.

Al-Asad Told of Saddam's Letter to Rafsanjani

JN1005140190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 May 90

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] It was disclosed today that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn recently sent a letter to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

This morning Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian emissary Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, assistant foreign minister. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Hasan Akhtari were also present at the meeting. The Iranian envoy conveyed a letter from the Iranian president to Mr. al-Asad. A Syrian presidential spokesman told us that Rafsanjani's message advised al-Asad of the contents of the letter the Iraqi president had sent to his Iranian counterpart.

The talks also touched on bilateral relations in the context of ongoing consultations between the Syrian and Iranian leaders.

Commentary Calls for Arab Unity on Summit

JN1005151390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 May 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: For Syria, Arab solidarity has never been a slogan raised on certain occasions or a media gimmick, but has rather been tireless action to close Arab ranks. This position stems from the firm conviction that freedom of the Arabs lies in their strength, and that the only way to confront the designs of the invaders and those who covet our Arab land is through unity and solidarity. Because Arab solidarity is a pan-Arab revolution that can reverse enemy plots and restore status to the Arab nation, Syria has been anxious to maintain the true pan-Arab dimensions of solidarity so as not to lose its brilliance and vigor. Hence, Syria has continuously called for giving precedence to our conflict over marginal differences in the region and pooling and exploiting all resources in our pan-Arab conflict against Israel, given that this is the main conflict—a conflict of destiny and existence.

Syria has placed all its potential in the service of pan-Arab issues. Its policies and practices have embodied the slogan of solidarity and transformed it into heroic deeds. It waged the glorious October war in defense of Palestine and refused to bargain over the Palestine question or to barter the Palestinian people's rights with the restoration of Golan. Syria has also confronted the sweeping danger in Lebanon. Through its struggle and the blood and sacrifice of its sons, Syria has spared the sisterly country from the claws of Zionism and prevented the establishment of another Israel there. Syria has extended to the national Lebanese resistance all forms of support and enabled it to successfully chase off the Zionist enemy and aim painful blows at its invading forces.

Any observer of current events in Lebanon must notice that the fraternal country is recovering and moving toward the restoration of its unity. The most evident proof of this trend is the collapse of the slogans of the secessionists and isolationists and the people's disregard for them. The visit of President al-Hirawi to Damascus yesterday and his talks with President al-Asad affirm the unity of the Lebanese-Syrian destiny and the two countries' agreement on current issues. Through President al-Asad, Syria has frequently sounded the alarm of danger regarding the new realities emerging from the world changes, which have been exploited by Israel and the United States to engineer an intensive Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine. The meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak in Damascus constituted a qualitative step in joint action to achieve Arab solidarity and ward off dangers. President al-Asad's visit to the Soviet Union and his lengthy talks with Gorbachev on Jewish emigration and its negative impact on the rights of the Palestinian people constituted a crucial turning point. Gorbachev showed understanding of the Arab rights and promised to reconsider the issue of emigration. At the same time, he voiced concern over the Israel's growing aggressiveness and quest to possess nuclear weapons.

Syria has always led efforts to defend Arab causes and to work for the sake of Arab solidarity. It was the first to call for an Arab summit to discuss the looming danger. However, it continues to want a summit to confront the dangers and changes within a unified stand and one strategy. This requires consultations at the highest levels, earnest efforts, and faith in and loyalty to the cause. But to call for an Arab solidarity meeting to show solidarity with a particular ruler and to serve his personal interests, thus turning the summit into a worthless show—this is strongly rejected and opposed by Syria. Arab solidarity should maintain its sanctity and great pan-Arab content and brilliance for the masses. If our nation loses Arab solidarity, it will have nothing left with which to confront the enemies and those who covet its territory and wealth.

The Arab summit sought by Syria should be successful and face up to the challenges and dangers. This requires continuous efforts, consultations among the Arab leaders, and an agreement on the summit's agenda, venue, and date. No Arab summit is worthwhile if it is not successful. Furthermore, the failure of the summit would cause the gravest damage to the Arab cause.

Hence, the call by some for a speedy summit without proper preparation, and the attempts by some to steer the summit away from its pan-Arab course in the interest of a pure propaganda action will harm the summit and its results.

The required summit should discuss the dangers of Jewish emigration and its U.S. sponsorship as well as separate deals and the need to adhere to the collective Arab peace and international conference. The required summit should transform Arab solidarity into concrete action to make the enemies realize that they are confronting a unified nation that refuses to relinquish its rights. It should be a summit to serve pan-Arab interests and aspirations, not narrow personal interests. Will these people rise to the level of pan-Arab responsibility?

Joint Cooperation Protocol Signed With Soviets

JN1005193390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] A protocol of the 11th session of the Permanent Syrian-Soviet Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation was signed at noon today. Signing for Syria was Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, state minister for planning, and for the USSR Comrade Yuriy Semenov, minister of power and electrification. The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Soviet ambassador in Damascus; the assistant planning, economy, transport, irrigation, and electricity ministers; embassy staff; and delegations of the two countries.

After the signing, the chief delegates of the standing committee exchanged friendly speeches, both stressing a shared interest in reinforcing economic cooperation in all areas, and praising the spirit of cooperation and friendship enhanced by the recent meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Gorbachev.

The signed protocol featured the decisions and recommendations adopted by the two sides during their talks in the areas of trade, energy, dam and electric power station construction, irrigation, water projects, transport, railway lines, ports, oil and gas, and phosphate. The protocol also detailed the participation of Syrian construction companies in cultural and social projects in the Soviet Union and set out the terms of starting joint ventures in various spheres of shared interest and training Syrian technical cadres.

Afghanistan

Parliament Backs Najibullah Decrees, Appointment

LD1005094290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 8, BAKHTAR—The houses of the Senate and the representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] in separate sessions held today under the chairmanship of Dr. Mahmoud Habibi, chairman of the Senate and Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, speakers of the houses, unanimously supported the decree of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, issued recently on the termination of the state of emergency, proclaimed already in the country, reports a BAKHTAR parliamentary correspondent.

The sessions expressed views on another decree of President Najibullah pertaining to the appointment of Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand as the first vice-president of the RA, the decision of the RA's Council of Ministers on increasing the quota of the state coupon holders, election of the administrative body of the Senate as well as nomads social affairs of the country.

The Senate session unanimously decided that, based on item 8, article 181 of the Constitution, the newly appointed first vice-president should take part in the session of National Assembly on May 13, 1990 to decide in the field. [sentence as published]

Najibullah Issues Decree on Education Reform

LD1005212190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] The Presidential Press Office reported that the following decree has been issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, on the need to reconsider the policy of education and training and to bring necesary changes in the structure and educational program of the training and educational institutions:

Decree of the president on the need to reconsider education and training policy and to bring changes and necessary corrections in the structure and educational program of the educational and training institutions in view of the conditions and present requirements as well as in view of the policy of national reconciliation in the country:

At the moment a large number of children, youngsters, and adults, who are the new generation and owners of the future Afghanistan—our beloved homeland—are engaged in education and training in the country's institutions and they are being prepared for the construction of our homeland and to serve our compatriots who have sustained enormous losses to their material and immaterial wealth as a result of the devastating war.

Attention and care for the circumstances of education in all directions is a major social and fundamental duty of the officials in charge of affairs. This responsibility—in particular under present conditions and circumstances where our people need the restoration of peace, stability of the situation, and ending the war and hostility—is crucial and outstanding.

Under such circumstances where the policy of national reconciliation is continuously achieving noticeable victories and the (?ground) has been prepared for the participation of all political and social organizations, individuals, and personalities, through the setting up of democracy and political pluralism, in the destiny of people and homeland, there are specific shortcomings and difficulties in the education and training system of the country. Fundamental actions are needed to remove them. Change in the education and training policy, on the basis of present requirements, is an essential task. The educational program in the educational institutions is a cause for concern from the view of content, volume, length, and depth which require specific alterations and changes. Shortage of expert educational cadres, educational and laboratory materials, is being seriously felt and sufficient attention is not being paid to the assignment of cadres in view of their professional and scientific ability and level of knowledge. There are still a series of shortcomings preventing the development of a sound and academic atmosphere in the educational institutions. Consequently, these reasons and a number of other factors have ensured that the level of training and education in the educational institutions remains unsatisfactory.

Therefore there is an objective need for a review to be carried out in educational and training policy and in the educational program of the educational and training establishments. Measures should be taken to draft a new educational and training policy, and accordingly to draft and approve a new educational program for the educational and training establishments.

The basic directions and main specifications of the policy of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan are for the national interests of the people, observation of human and Islamic values and norms and religious, social, and economic [as received] beliefs of the people, developments of science, awareness of modern technology, familiarization of the young generations of the Republic of Afghanistan with the national and historical honors of the people of Afghanistan and distinction of [word indistinct] based on the provisions of the Constitution, which should be observed in the educational program and contents of the textbooks and in the actions of the responsible authorities to develop and expand the general system of education and training.

Of course achievement of such aims requires fast, accurate, valuable and effective measures and activities to meet all the demands. Therefore the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afganistan is authorized to appoint a series of commissions in various sections of science and scholars based on the requirements of the educational program of the educational and training establishments to fulfil the following tasks:

1. It should present to the responsible authorities, after a critical assessment of the present state policy in the

educational field and the existing educational program taking into account human values and norms, national and Islamic interests, traditions, the rich culture of the people of Afghanistan and development of science, a series of proposals to accelerate the new draft of the state policy in the field of education and chose a new educational program.

2. It should study the structure of educational and training establishments. It should draft and present to the responsible authorities after a profound assessment of the structure of the aforementioned establishments in past and in present, a series of proposals for the future structure of the educational establishments.

3. It should take propose, after profound study, specific measures to ensure coordination in the education program and in the structure of the various educational and training establishments, taking into account the specification of the general educational and tarining system and based on the social and economic requirements of the country.

4. Relevant ministries and departments should organize necessary measures to introduce and familiarize teachers, professors, and officials with the new educational level. They should take measures to ensure that all professors and teachers become accurately informed about the new state policy on education and training and the new educational program.

5. The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan should present a report to the president of the Republic of Afghanistan on the results of its work by the end of Asad 1369 [month ending 22 August 1990], after a final assessment of the proposals and work.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Prime Minister-Designate Khaliqyar Profiled

LD1005172990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] On the basis of a decree issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, the designated prime minister, was assigned to form the new government.

May we draw your attention to the brief biography of Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, the designated prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan:

Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, son of Gholam Yahya, was born in 1934 in Shahr-e Now of Herat, the capital of Herat Province. After the completion of his education at the level of licence, he was graduated from the Kabul University Economic Faculty. He got a job as a government employee in 1958. He continued his employment in the Ministry of Planning until the end of 1960. From 1961-1962 he was employed on the periphery of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and in 1964-1965 he was employed in the Ministry of Communication and then as general auditor of Kabul Province. He was appointed as administrative president of the Ministry of Finance at the beginning of 1968; and then worked as governor of Baghlan Province from September of 1971 to the end of this year. He was then deputy minister of finance until the begining of 1971. Following that he discharged his duty as first deputy minister of finance until the begining of 1980; from then unitl now he discharged his duty as minister counsellor in the Council of Ministers and governor general of northwestern zone.

He acquired the title of "Hero of the Republic of Afghanistan" in 1986 and received various medals and orders during the execution of his duties.

In accordance with the decree of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, as designated prime minister, was commissioned to form the new government.

Fazl Haq Khaliqyar is married and has two sons.

Peasants Justice Party Opens First Congress

LD1005204790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 May 90

[Excerpts] The first nationwide congress of the Peasants Justice Party [Hezb-e Adalat-e Dehganan] of Afghanistan was held this morning in the hall of Afghanistan's Union of Journalists.

Representatives, heads, and first secretaries of all the political parties and social organizations of the country, and the press attaches of Bulgaria, the GDR, Korea, the Democratic Republic of Yemen, Cuba, and the Soviet Union took part in the work of the first nationwide congress of this party.

The work of the first nationwide council of the Peasants Justice Party of Afghanistan was opened with a recitation from the holy Koran.

Abdol Hakim Tawana, chairman of the party, presented the basic report on the work of the leadership council from the founding conference to the first nationwide congress of the party. [passage omitted]

The work of the nationwide council of the Peasants Justice Party of Afghanistan will continue tomorrow.

Najibullah Receives Shindand Elders, Clergy

LD1005174390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met this afternoon at the presidential headquarters with elders, ulema, and religious leaders of Shindand major district.

A correspondent of the BIA [BAKHTAR INTERNATIONAL AGENCY] reports that in the meeting esteemed Najibullah spoke about the military-political situation of the country, participation of all the people of

Afghanistan in the implementation of the national reconciliation policy, peace proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan, and the changes that will be introduced in the constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Also in the meeting Jamaloddin Omor, senator of Shindand District, and a number of elders and ulema and religious leaders expressed their readiness to participate in the work of ensuring nationwide peace in the country and implement fully the national reconciliation policy.

At the end of the meeting a small rug was presented to esteemed Najibullah as gift of the people of Shindand major district.

Mujahidin Operations in Paghman Valley Reported

BK0905132590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have killed a general of the Kabul regime and a (?hardline) leader in an attack in Paghman Valley. More than 30 Kabul regime soldiers and militiamen are also reported to have been killed by mujahidin in other operations in the valley. The Afghan mujahidin also killed 24 Kabul regime servicemen during the attack on a Kabul regime front in Shakar Darreh District and a security outpost of Kariz-e Mir, a summer resort near Kabul. Other reports say a helicopter gunship was destroyed when the mujahidin rocked Qandahar Airport with artillery fire. A large number of Kabul regime soldiers were killed and an ammunition depot was destroyed during the operation.

Three Opposition Groups Join Government Side

LD0905171690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 May 90

[Excerpt] By ceasing their armed activities, three opposition groups consisting of 300 armed and 1,900 unarmed men have declared their intention today to come over on the side of the Islamic and humane policy of national reconciliation in the surroundings of Sar-e Pol Province.

The military section of the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reported that these groups were welcomed by the officials and a large number of peace-loving people in this province. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Reportedly Capture 18 Security Posts

BK1005154490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have captured four security posts at Daruntah along the Jalalabad-Kabul highway. They also captured 14 security posts around the (?Chowkay) Mountain during a three-day operation against Kabul forces. Nine Kabul soldiers and three officers were killed and 58 other soldiers were captured along with a huge quantity of arms and ammunition.

Bangladesh

'Arafat Makes Brief Stopover in Dhaka

BK1005052090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0439 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Dhaka, May 10 (AFP)—Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat made a brief stopover here late Wednesday [9 May] and held talks with Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, national radio reported Thursday.

Mr. 'Arafat was greeted at Zia International Airport by Mr. Ershad, Vice-President Moudud Ahmed, Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and other top officials, it said.

The two leaders discussed latest development in the Middle East and the Arab world, including the settlement of Soviet Jews on occupied Arab territory—which Dhaka says will hinder the Middle East peace process—the radio added.

Mr. 'Arafat left shortly after midnight Wednesday for an undisclosed destination, it said.

Bangladesh was one of the first countries to recognize the Palestinian Government in exile and has upgraded the PLO office here to embassy status.

India

Home Minister Briefs Parliament on National Issues

BK1005161590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] A scheme has been prepared to check infiltration from across the border. Stating this while replying to the debate on the working of the Home Ministry in the Rajya Sabha today, the home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, said the scheme is presently under implementation in Rajasthan and Gujarat. The center has asked the Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, West Bengal, and Assam governments to check infiltration vigorously and issue identity cards to the people in border areas. He said all expenditure in this regard will be borne by the center.

The Mufti said Pakistan is trying hard to create internal disturbances and divisive forces are vitiating the communal atmosphere. People have to stand united to face challenge, particularly from across the border.

The home minister expressed the confidence that the authority of administration will soon be restored in the Kashmir Valley and the state will become normal again. He said steps are also being taken to restart the political process.

Referring to Punjab, the home minister said night patrol is being intensified in three border districts and the law and order machinery is being strengthened to ensure that elections to the state assembly are held within six months.

Referring to the situation in Assam, the home minister assured the state government of all help to deal with the activities of ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] politically and administratively. He said another round of tripartite talks on the Bodo issue will be held soon. All steps have been taken to implement the Assam accord and all help will be given to develop the northeastern region.

The home minister informed the members that a notification on setting up the inter-state council will be issued in a day or two.

Referring to the [Hindu-Muslim] Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue, he said the government has not allowed the situation to take an ugly turn. But government action alone cannot solve this kind of problem. He called upon the people and various organizations to come forward and help solve it.

Regarding the Jharkhand [Bihar tribals demanding statehood] issue, he said the leaders of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha [Liberation Front] and others concerned are being invited for further talks to resolve the issue peacefully.

Referring to the Fatehpur incident [of violence during the general elections campaign] in Uttar Pradesh, the Mufti said the prime minister has directed the Uttar Pradesh chief minister to take strong action and punish the guilty.

Paper on U.S. 'Non-Cooperative Attitude' on Trade

BK1005102690 Delhi PATRIOT in English 3 May 90 p 4

[Editorial: "ADB, India and U.S."]

[Text] Prime Minister V.P. Singh, addressing the 23rd annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank [ADB] on May 2 called for an enhanced flow of concessional assistance to developing countries through multilateral financial institutions such as the ADB and for strengthening the multilateral trading system. The reference was clearly to the US. The latter's commitment to the ADB has, of late, been on the wane, a fact clearly demonstrated by its failure to honour its commitment to the fifth quota of the Asian Development Fund (ADF-V) as well as its low level representation at the replenishment negotiations for ADF-VI being held in Delhi. The US reluctance has a direct bearing upon Indian access to the concessional funds from ADB, resources which it crucially needs in view of its present resource crunch and the growing difficulties of raising concessional flows from alternative international financial institutions. Indeed, though both China and India are eligible for loans from ADF-VI, having per capita incomes below the stipulated cut-off point of 650 US dollars, they are likely to be denied this access on grounds that this would crowd out smaller countries, unless there is an enhanced replenishment. Part of US non-cooperative attitude can be traced to its disapproval of domestic policies in these two countries, particularly in India, the most striking expression of which was the inclusion of India under Super 301. The second emphasis on strengthening the multilateral trading system too had a reference to the same Super 301, which India sees as a clear attempt by the US to compel its trading partners, particularly among the developing countries, into bilateral agreements. Mr Singh's emphasis reiterated the country's stand in wanting to discuss the issue of trade in services on the multilateral forum under GATT and not bilaterally. With the deadline of June 16, for US retaliatory action against India, drawing close, it was a significant enunciation of India's position that Mr. V.P. Singh made. One wishes he had demonstrated a greater willingness and flexibility in adhering to the outcomes of GATT negotiations.

Support of Fijian Antigovernment Struggle Assured

BK1105044690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] India will continue to support the people of Fiji in their fight against racial discrimination by the illegal government there. This assurance was given in the Lok Sabha today by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Harikishore Singh, while replying to a calling attention motion moved by Professor Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Bhartiya Janata Party, and others.

The minister said the issue of trampling human rights in Fiji will be raised in various international fora, including the United Nations, the nonaligned conference, and Commonwealth meet. He said democratic and nonracial constitutional system is the only way to achieve peace and stability in Fiji.

During the discussion, the members suggested the setting up of a special cell in the External Affairs Ministry for safeguarding the interest of the people of Indian origin in Fiji.

Kuwaiti Special Envoy Calls on Prime Minister

BK1105045690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Kuwait has said that India and Pakistan should resolve the differences between them peacefully and bilaterally. This was conveyed to the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, when the special envoy of the amir of Kuwait called on him in New Delhi today. The envoy said that Kuwait wants to increase cooperation and high-level contacts with India. He also handed over to the prime minister a letter from the amir of Kuwait, Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

'Red Alert' Sounded in Punjab Following Violence

BK1005163090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] In Punjab, 16 persons, including four terrorists, have been killed in separate incidents since last night. Two more terrorists were arrested in Kapurthala District and a large quantity of arms and ammunition recovered from them.

A red alert has been sounded in the state in view of the incidents of bomb blasts in buses. Instructions have been issued to carry out thorough checks of baggage at bus stands, railway stations, and other stops. Security arrangements at crowded places have been further tightened.

Iran

President Meets PRC's Wan Li

LD1005211890 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress Wan Li here today. During the meeting Wan condemned the meddling of world imperialism led by the U.S. in other countries' affairs and deplored Washington's intereven-tion in China under the pretext of human rights.

"From the Western and the U.S. point of view, human rights are double-faced. On one hand, the U.S. considers it its right to invade Panama and kill people there, and on the other it labels China's putting down of internal unrest as human rights violation," he said. Wan added that China fights any expansionist policy, and tries to strengthen its relations with the Third World countries.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied that the recent turn of events between Washington and Beijing reveals that the Americans are scheming to rule over "even a great country like China" whose population is four times as much as that of the U.S.

"At one juncture we were concerned of some deviation in China's world policy, and that was when the Americans and Westerners had opened the way into China, hoping for changes," said the president. However, he thought that the danger seems to have reduced now.

The president then referred to the Iraqi issue as "one of the important problems of the region", and said Iran has time and again proved its seriousness for a lasting peace. "But we are still not sure of the other side's (Iraq) good intentions, although some signs in this regard have been seen," he said.

More on regional issues, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Westerners seem to be trying to drum up more suport for the illegal Zionist regime in the aftermath of the subsiding tension betwen the Eastern and Western blocs.

"That's why regional countries should act in a way to leave no room for Israel's expansionism," warned the Iranian president.

Today afternoon, Wan left Iran [at] the end of a four-day official visit. He was seen off at the airport by Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karubi.

Velayati Discusses Peace Talks, Soviet Proposal

NC1105083290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] On this week's "Political Roundtable," carried on the second network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati and two other Foreign Ministry officials discussed the latest developments connected with UN Security Council Resolution 598 and the trend of the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

During the roundtable, Mr. Velayati deemed Iraq's lack of cooperation as the real reason for the delays in the peace talks on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, and said: What is certain is that the secretary general's approach and the UN Security Council's support could prove effective in the implementation of the resolution.

Continuing, Mr. Velayati said the following three factors were essential if the resolution is to be implemented: the categorical stance of the secretary general, the support of the UN Security Council, and the sincere desire of the two parties. He added: If one of these factors is absent, then the resolution cannot be implemented in the desired manner.

Regarding the Soviet Union's proposal for tripartite talks between Iran, Iraq, and the Soviet Union in Moscow, Mr. Velayati noted the passage of one year since the proposal was put forward and the various forms it has taken, the latest of which was an official letter to which the Islamic Republic of Iran has replied. He said: We view the Soviet plan in a positive light, but we still need further clarifications from the Soviet Union in this regard.

Our foreign minister stressed: Every positive gesture from any side, be it the Soviet Union or the United Nations or even Iraq, which will assist in the implementation of Resolution 598 will be welcomed by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mohtashemi Decries Idea of Talks With U.S.

NC1005191390 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 29 Apr 90 p 20

[Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Mohtashemi article from the "Political Commentary" column, "Direct Talks or Expecting the Great Satan's Mercy"]

[Text] And incline not to those who do wrong, or the fire will seize you. [Koranic verse]

After the Israeli attack on South Lebanon in 1982, one of Lebanon's liberal statesmen immediately went to the United States on a long trip. During a meeting, a Shiite student asked him the reason for this trip, and the statesman replied sarcastically: I have come to seek the help of the great Satan in ousting Israel from South Lebanon.

"Direct Talks" is the title of an irresponsible article which was published in the afternoon paper ETTE-LA'AT on 26 April 1990 and which has greatly enraged the hezbollah ummah and those who are enamored of the revolution and the imam. In the view of the author of this article, America can solve problems and we should extend a hand to beg from it.

This article is the link in a chain that has penetrated the body of the Islamic revolution like a scourge since its victory. It is also a current that has not believed in the anti-blasphemous principles of the Islamic revolution and the ideas of the imam, may his soul be sanctified. The Iranian nation has seen this manifested in the form of "belittlement," in statements like "If relations with America are in the interest of the system, then they are a religious duty and if so, it is irrelevant who takes the first step," and in the remarks of a diplomat who previously claimed that during his term in office he had propounded short-term and long-term plans for relations. Today, we regrettably see the publication of such an article, the gist of which is the downfall of a free system and the death of the Islamic revolution.

What mistake did the Bazargan government commit which led to its downfall and to its rejection by the imam, may his soul be sanctified, and by the hezbollah ummah? What did it do to be recorded in history as a detested government? Was the reason for all this not the call by Bazargan and Yazdi for talks and for relations with America through Brzezenski? Our great leader, may God bless his soul, made the eternal statement that "the so-called Freedom Movement seriously supports Iran's dependence on America and has not spared any efforts toward this. If God Almighty had not helped us and if the interim government had remained in power, oppressed nations and especially our dear nation would now be suffering in the clutches of America and its advisers. These oppressors would have slapped Islam so strongly in the face that it would not have been able to raise its head for centuries."

Undoubtedly the publication of such articles is a scourge on the sacred body of public opinion, whose wounds cannot even be washed away with the water from the sacred stream of Zamzam. It is a trend of thought which the ummah and the imam, may his soul be sanctified, will never forgive, and it lacks credibility. The interpretation by the imam, may God bless his soul, and by the Islamic revolution and ummah is that America is the great Satan, the major enemy, the bloodthirsty wolf, and the source of all ills. World-devouring America was the one who plundered Iran's oil and other resources for more than 30 years, who imposed capitulation on Iran, on whose orders the 5 June 1963 massacre took place, and who shed the blood of hundreds of this country's children during the 15 years after the imam was exiled to Turkey and then to Iraq and during the revolution. America was the one who after the victory of the revolution, organized the incidents in Kordestan and Azerbaijan, the operations by small groups, the direct attack on Tabas, the Nowzheh coup attempt, the imposed war, the intervention by its warships in the Persian Gulf, the downing of the Airbus and the martyrdom of 290 of its defenseless passengers, the dispatching and using of spies, and dozens of other efforts to overthrow the Islamic Republic.

All this is proof enough that we should draw a line, once and for all, on talks and on relations with world-devouring America. By following his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, the people of Iran have, once and for all, done away with relations with America. Under the leadership of the imam, may his soul be sanctified, and along with the then government, this nation managed the country in the best way possible and under the most difficult conditions of the imposed war and of the blockade without depending on superpowers; today too, under the leadership of the student of that great man, it will continue the path of the revolution and of the imam without depending on satanic powers.

America, this bloodthirsty hyena which dreams of prey every night, should know that the Islamic revolution and the imam, may his soul be sanctified, have made Iran into a nightmare of a disgraceful death for America and that playing with it will be tantamount to America's destruction.

The heavenly voice of the imam, may his soul be sanctified, still throngs from Neuphle-le-Chateau [Khomeyni's home in exile in France] in the ears of the children of Islam in Iran and in the world. When the oil workers went on strike along with the nation and when the deposed shah said that he would operate the oil industry with foreign help, the imam stated: It is the duty of all Muslims to throw these people out and to kill all of them. These people are at war with Islam and with the Muslims.

Naturally this decree always applies to the enemies of Islam and of the Muslims and primarily to America.

God is watching you closely.

With hopes for the victory of the oppressed over the oppressors.

Paper Criticizes Mohajerani Call for Talks

NC1005121890 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 28 Apr 90 pp 1, 9

[Editorial: "Deviation"]

[Text] The article entitled "Direct Talks" which was published on Thursday 26 April in an afternoon newspaper has sparked off a wave of public disgust among the people and the officials of the country. The gist of the article is that since U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has announced that the United States is ready to hold direct talks with the Iranian leaders, we should not miss the opportunity and should rush to start the direct talks with the United States before it changes its mind, because all of a sudden the happiness of our nation and the fate of our revolution depend on these direct talks with the United States! and

because if we do not do this we will ultimately regret it and nothing can be gained from regrets.

The author of this article has apparently tried to take the place of the messages conveyed by the author of the "Weekly Political Newsletter" [title of column by Mohammad Javad Larijani in ETTELA'AT], using exactly the same style and taking exactly the same direction. He gives wise advice! It would seem that such talks are the only thing the revolution lacks at this juncture and that if we do what he says then all problems will be solved! The article is so liberal in color that if the name of its author had not appeared no one would have doubted that it was a product of the formulas preached by the country's liberals, or that it was brought out of the hat of the Hojjatiyeh Association, or that this time Sa'idi-Sirjani [author of commentary entitled "The Future, Important Decisions and What We Should Know," published on in the 21 August 1989 issue of ETTELA'AT] was writing an article with the same content but using another tone. It is obvious that even the newspaper in question insisted that the name of the author be published so that the author and not the newspaper would be questioned.

In the author's opinion, the benefit to be gained from direct talks is that we can use U.S. influence in the Security Council for the implementation of Resolution 598, that our assets in the United States and the spare parts bought from that country will be unfrozen, that the Iranian and Lebanese hostages will be released, and that the direct talks with the United States will lead to the military and political strengthening of Iran.

Finally, he believes that this step will enable us to reconstruct the country industrially and economically, and that if we hesitate we will lose all this!

What can one say to such wishful thinking as this?

His eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, said about a similar case: "The United States is deceiving even the Soviet Union." It seems that now it is appropriate to say: "James Baker is deceiving even Mr....." [as published]

It is interesting how all this wishful thinking was published in a newspaper which devoted three right-hand columns on its first page to a report on the rage and disgust expressed by the Muslim world to the approval of a resolution by the U.S. House of Representatives officially recognizing Jerusalem as the capital city of the regime occupying Jerusalem. Is the U.S. House of Representatives completely different from James Baker? Are these two completely different from the U.S. Government, which our late imam called the "great Satan?"

His eminence the imam has handed down an unalterable principle about the United States which clarifies the stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the United States once and for all. The imam stated that we will have no relations with the United States until it comes to its senses. With the call for "direct talks," does the author of the article believe that the United States has now come to its senses? Would it not be naive to think that a government which initiated state terrorism, which tied the regime occupying Jerusalem to its bandwagon, which blackmailed Muslims by kidnapping them, and which announced that it would make no concessions in connection with the hostages—now that the Muslims have released one of the hostages in order to end the issue—can come to its senses?

What is wrong with us that we think that we too should become the media star of the United States like Syria, or that if the U.S. President says that Iran's role in releasing the American hostages has gone unseen by the United States we should be offended that the United States does not understand our worth? What is wrong with us that we forget the nation's determination, the capability of our officials, and the strength of our revolution and helplessly claim that if we do not respond positively to the charlatan James Baker, we will have lost a golden opportunity! and we will not be able to reconstruct our country? Where have our courage and generosity gone? Where has our revolutionary zeal gone? Where has all the clamor of death to America gone? Can the dignity of a nation that has so bravely confronted the great Satan and considered this to be the biggest glory of the century be questioned in such a way on the world level?

Really, what is the matter with us that one day we say that the path of the prophets is the path of struggle against the arrogant and the corrupt like America and another day we claim that direct talks with the likes of America was the tradition of the prophets? Are such deviatory articles not tantamount to an insult to a revolutionary nation?

It is hoped that the author of "Direct Talks" will have realized his deviatory thoughts by studying the anti-American statement by the esteemed leader of the revolution and by our dear president during the 'Id al-Fitr ceremonies, and now that it is clear that these thoughts had nothing to do with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and with the people of Iran, he should clarify to the readers of his article with whose mouth he is talking.

Editorial Comments on Polhill Release

NC1005084490 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 28 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Hostages Again"]

[Text] All the publicity surrounding the fate of Western hostages in Lebanon can best be described as cruel. The coverage a few Americans and their European cousins held by oppressed Muslims are getting of late makes a normal mind sick. If it is bad, criminal or against "international law" to hold people against their will, then holding hundreds of Lebanon and Palestinians in Israeli jails is equally unacceptable and should be condemned in the most vociferous manner. But there is almost no mention of these poor souls in the "civilized West."

The unfolding of events in the last few days gives new life to the old position held by revolutionaries in the Middle East and elsewhere that policy-makers in the United States cannot be trusted. Despite this view, which has prevailed ever since Iran revealed U.S. crimes to the world following the victory of the revolution, one American hostage was freed in Lebanon on Sunday.

First of all it should be clarified that the entire issue of hostages has got nothing to do with the Iranian nation. The Islamic Republic of Iran has made no secret of its anti-Americanism and the need to confront U.S. arrogance in different parts of the globe. This thinking has taken shape and become part and parcel of Iranian policy because American rulers have shown through their conduct and treatment of freedom-loving masses that they do not deserve a better deal.

At the same time Tehran has declared that it does not encourage kidnappers. But it has never stopped short of supporting revolutionary and progressive forces in their struggle against foreign domination. Assisting Lebanese and Palestinian liberation movements is in the context of this line of thought and action.

Those who know revolutionary Iran and have been abreast of the upheavals in the volatile Mideast will naturally question the theory behind the release of Mr. Robert Polhill. Was there a deal? Did the Iranian leadership tap its influence in Beirut to get the man out? What did the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (the group that held Polhill) get in return for their humanitarian gesture? And finally some will ask: Was it a mistake?

There is no answer to all these questions. At least not at the present time. Yes, one thing happened two days after the hostage release that opened the eyes of all these who might still believe that "goodwill begets goodwill." The House of Representatives on Tuesday passed a highly controversial resolution declaring aunited Jerusalem Israel's capital.

The congress vote could not have come at a better time. It is worth keeping in mind that the money and arms the Israelis get in annual U.S. aid is because Washington is committed to the security and stability of the Zionist state. Thus the U.S. vote is another message to the Islamic world in general and the region's progressive forces in particular that they should bow down to America's superpower arrogance or face its wrath.

Endorsing Israel's occupation of Al-Qods (Jerusalem) in the midst of the hostage crisis and on the eve 'Id al-Fitr underlined America's deep-rooted hostility towards Muslims everywhere. The move also impled that U.S. leaders can turn and twist every international law and regulation to match Israel's illegitimate needs. Mediators trying to seek the freedom of Western hostages in Lebanon better take note of this recent U.S. arrogance.

From one point the U.S. move is understandable. After the collapse of communism the Western bloc sees genuine Islam as the only hurdle to its ultimate domination of the world. Increasing calls for the establishment of Islamic rule and the growing tendencies towards fundamentalism in countries with pro-American leaderships has not missed Washington's attention. If communism was proved a failure vis-a-vis the artificial shine and glow of capitalism, Islam should suffer a similar fate. So the Americans think.

But the truth is that there are fundamental differences between the followers (forced or otherwise) of communism and those who have embraced Islam as their way of life. And because America is not alien to this reality it will continue to find ways to embarrass Muslims and severely curb trends that will one day pose a major threat to its hegemony.

It can be said that Mr. Polhill's release was, in a way, a victory for the United States and a setback for the strugglers seeking justice and freedom for their long-tyrannized masses including the hundreds languishing without trial in Israeli dungeons.

Of course this may not be the case in the future. Two sets of laws define reward and punishment. One wordly and the other divine. If some act of goodwill is to be reciprocated true Muslims know what to expect and from whom. They are obliged to fulfil their Islamic duty and beware of the sworn enemies of genuine Islam.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Sermon

NC1105150490 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1120 GMT 11 May 90

[Friday sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani at Tehran University on 11 May—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Peace be on the Muslim brothers and sisters everywhere. Concerning the foreign relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Constitution says that our country's foreign policy is based on rejecting total domination and exploitation, safeguarding our national sovereignty, defending the rights of all Muslims, nonalignment with dominating powers, and on establishing bilateral peaceful relations with [word indistinct] states.

Our Constitution rejects any kind of foreign hegemony or submission to it. The Islamic Republic has always dealt with all countries on that basis. However, the more peoples and governments stand fast, the more the arrogant powers try to impose their hegemony on them.

Following the humanitarian initiative that Iran took for freeing U.S. hostages, the White House began exposing its arrogant identity and its hostility to Iran by raising the issue of our economic needs in order to distort the facts.

The Iranian people endured all kinds of injustice and aggression before and after the triumph of the revolution. The White House leaders used all their military, political, and economic conspiracies to strike at the will

of the people. But our people, under their wise leadership, have always declared their refusal to submit to the hegemony of the arrogant. We draw the attention of the world's Muslims to the danger of the arrogant forces. We also believe that the Zionist entity which has usurped Jerusalem is carrying out its designs with the backing of America and the arrogant forces. The migration of Jews to the occupied territories is just a new attempt to achieve the hideous Zionist conspiracies against Islam and the great Islamic homeland that today is facing a greater threat than ever before.

How long will the Muslims remain indifferent? How long will the reactionary governments continue to implement their capitulationist policies toward this usurping entity? Today the Muslims of Lebanon in the occupied territories are under attack, and tomorrow the rest of us will have our turn. Therefore, you Muslims must wake up and be alert, for the Israeli danger is threatening Islam everywhere.

Another issue that is a source of great concern and grief to all Muslims is that of the hajj. Why are the Iranian people being prevented from observing the hajj ritual when today Iran is considered a center for propagating the blessed Koran and the teachings of the great Prophet, God's blessings and peace be on him and on his family and entourage. We advise the government of al-Sa'ud to renounce this great sin and not to close the door to visits to the sanctuary of God so that the Muslims in Iran will be able to fulfill their religious rites.

Worshippers of God, I counsel you to fear God and renounce sins. I wish you to be spared the tortures of Hell. Peace be with you. "He is God, the One and Only; God, the Eternal, Absolute; He begotteth not, nor is He begotten; and there is none like unto Him." [Koranic verse]

Paper Calls for Western 'Goodwill' on Hostages

NC1005131690 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 24 Apr 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The West's Goodwill in the Testing Crucible"]

[Excerpts] An American hostage was released in south Beirut on Sunday evening [22 April]. He was transferred by the Syrian security forces to Damascus and later handed over to the U.S. ambassador by the Syrian foreign minister. [passage omitted]

A review of past events clearly proves that the first kidnapping was carried out by mercenaries working for the West, especially the United States. Today, nearly 3,000 people have been abducted by the savage Phalangists in Lebanon and are still missing. Their families have absolutely no news of their whereabouts.

Even though it is bitter to recall past events, at least this proves who initiated the kidnapping and adopted it as a policy. In other words, this proves who were the pioneers of abduction. This abduction was not limited to the Phalangists alone. At present, at least 400 Shiite Lebanese citizens have been abducted by Israel and are languishing in its medieval dungeons. The Western propaganda mills as well as the officials of these countries are maintaining complete silence over this matter.

If kidnapping is to be condemned, then why is the West silent over the kidnapping of more than 3,000 Lebanese Muslims by the Phalangists? If kidnapping is to be condemned, then why is the West, especially the United States, silent over the unlawful entry of the Israeli security forces into Lebanon and their abduction of 400 Lebanese Muslims from there?

It appears that the root of the problem is contained in this very point and it is from here that all threads emerge, which can be understood by considering this point. One should accept that the actions of most of underground Muslims groups are more of a "reaction" than an "action"—a reaction by those who had no other recourse but to resort to "tit-for-tat" to chastise their enemies.

Iran's understanding of these matters and its declaration that the problems, ordeals, and tribulations of the people of Lebanon are understandable resulted in the realization by the people of Lebanon and all groups in general of the Islamic Republic of Iran's goodwill toward the Lebanese problems and its desire for the happiness and prosperity of the Lebanese people. This is why the people of Lebanon and most of the groups trust the Islamic Republic of Iran's system.

It is possible that the Western mass media and knowledgeable persons may portray this affectionate bond differently and make it seem as though Iran has influence over and even directs these Lebanese underground groups who have presumably assumed responsibility for the abduction of the foreign citizens in Lebanon.

No one could prove these ludicrous allegations as they are simply not true. Whenever the West endeavored to prove this, it suffered setbacks. [passage omitted]

Despite all the treachery and crimes against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the West, especially the crimes of the United States against the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran's hallowed system, the Islamic Republic of Iran used its credibility with the Lebanese people solely on humanitarian grounds and on the basis of its beliefs. However, it is clear that this issue rebounds on all those who have been abducted, especially the Lebanese who have been kidnapped by the Phalangists and Israel and also the Iranians who had been abducted by the Phalangists.

The kidnappings were pioneered by the mercenaries of the West, but it was on the basis of their pure beliefs that the Muslims initiated the release of the hostages and pioneered the resolution of this issue, thus proving their goodwill. [passage omitted]

The people of Lebanon and the world are awaiting the reaction of the West, and of the United States in particular, regarding pressure on Israel and the Phalangists. Is the West capable of understanding such a humanitarian

gesture and of responding appropriately? One must wait for the answer to this question, but meanwhile one point is clear, and that is that the people of Lebanon have in practice proved that they will no longer suffer the atrocities of the Western mercenaries and will display their reaction, a reaction which may not be very pleasant for others but will still occur.

Commentary Warns Against OPEC Overproduction

LD1005165790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1120 GMT 10 May 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The oil price rise of the past few days shows that the recent OPEC session has had a positive effect on the oil market. [passage omitted] Our country's oil minister said: In our opinion if the OPEC members were to reduce their production by one and a half million barrels [per day], the market situation would improve. The important point in our view is the practical response of the OPEC members toward the decision [made at the last OPEC session to lower production]. A more stable oil price requires longer time and practical efforts by all the OPEC members. Should the oil prices rise to the desirable level—the possibility of which is quite strong—those OPEC members who have so far remained loyal to their official quotas should investigate the objectives of certain other OPEC members whose actions have brought oil prices down. The latter group should not be allowed to resort to overproduction from time to time so as to impose their conditions on the market. At any rate it is necessary to stress that the recent decision of the OPEC committee in charge of observing the market remains valid until the next session of the organization on 25 June 1990. When some members decide voluntarily to produce less than their official quota, this should not be interpreted by the other members as a signal to them to increase their own quotas. OPEC's recent logical decision to increase prices by reducing production has pleased most oil ministers including our country's oil minister. Mr. Aqazadeh, in an interview in Geneva last week, said: From next month the crude prices will rise to $18 per barrel, which is the minimum price acceptable to OPEC.

Velayati Receives Irish Minister's Message

LD1005113190 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Thursday [10 May] received a message from Ireland's Foreign Minister Collins in anticipation of a meeting of an Iranian delegation and representatives of the EEC member states in Dublin next week.

The message of the Irish minister was submitted by the charge d'affairs of the Irish Embassy here, N.P. O'Byrne to Iran's deputy foreign minister in charge of Euro-American affairs Mahmud Va'ezi here today.

The Irish minister in his message to Velayati has referred to his talks with him during the previous U.N. assembly, and expressed hope that the relations between the two countries would further broaden.

He has also expressed hope that the next week meeting in Dublin would help promote the relations between Iran and the EEC member states.

Upcoming EC Talks Previewed

NC1105063390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 May 90

[Report by unidentified Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent in London]

[Text] Following the EC's declaration of its desire to expand cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, EC representatives will hold talks with a delegation of experts from the Iranian Foreign Ministry next week.

According to a spokesman for the Islamic Republic of Iran in Dublin, these talks will take place in Ireland, home of the current president of the EC. The Republic of Ireland, in view of its cordial political and economic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, is eager to expand ties between the EC and the Islamic Republic of Iran during its presidency of the organization.

Although the agenda for the talks has not been announced, it appears that the talks will revolve around a discussion of certain issues as well as current and future cooperation between the EC and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Progress on broadening economic and technical cooperation between the EC and the Islamic Republic of Iran will result in the further isolation of London from the other members of this organization. The British Government, with its overt support for Salman Rushdie, the apostate author of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses," has severed ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran and will certainly not be too pleased at the expansion of ties between the other EC members and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The EC will, in this way, dissociate itself from London's policy of not expanding relations with Tehran.

Soviet Envoy Gives Message to Velayati

LD1005112690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Petrovskiy met this morning with Mr. Velayati, foreign minister of our country. According to the Central News Unit, during this meeting, which was also attended by the deputy foreign minister of our country in charge of international affairs, as well as by the Soviet ambassador in Tehran, Mr. Petrovskiy submitted a message from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to the minister of foreign affairs. The message stresses the need for the further expansion of relations between the two countries in various fields, and the Soviet foreign minister expresses the readiness of his government to continue cooperation

for the solution of the issue of Afghanistan, as well as a tripartite effort to achieve peace between Iran and Iraq within the framework of the efforts of the UN secretary general and Resolution 598.

At the end of this meeting, Mr. Velayati expressed his gratitude for the message of the Soviet foreign minister, his satisfaction with the ever-expanding relations between the two countries, and with the expansion of bilateral cooperation.

Discusses Issues With Counterpart

LD1005181690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] The second round of talks between Mr. Petrovskiy, Soviet deputy foreign minister in charge of international affairs, and Mr. Mottaki, our deputy foreign minister in charge of international affairs, took place this morning in Tehran in the foreign ministry building.

In that round of talks the two sides reached agreement about mutual cooperation, human rights, disarmament, and the formation of a convention on imposing a ban on the production and spread of chemical weapons. Furthermore, the fight against narcotics was another issue which was reviewed in that meeting. Mr. Petrovskiy paid tribute to the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to control the narcotics traffic, and prevent its spread. Further, he declared his country's readiness to cooperate in that field.

DPRK Cultural, Economic Delegations Arrive

Cultural Exchange Underway

NC1105074090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] In celebration of Iran-DPRK Friendship Week which begins on 14 May, Mr. Yi Mong-ho, chief of the DPRK Cultural and Foreign Exchanges Commission [title as heard], arrived in Tehran last night at the head of a cultural delegation and was welcomed by Mr. Abtahi, deputy minister for international relations at the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance.

According to our correspondent, Iran-DPRK Friendship Week was established when the then president of Iran, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, visited Pyongyang last year. The visit by the high-level DPRK cultural delegation comes in celebration of this occasion.

The delegation will open festivities marking Iran-DPRK Friendship Week in Iran. Film shows, photography and book exhibitions, and meetings between Iranian and North Korean cultural figures will better acquaint the people of the two countries with cultural issues.

An Iranian cultural delegation has left for the DPRK on behalf of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance to participate in Iran-DPRK Friendship Week festivities there.

Joint Economic Commission To Meet

NC1105075490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 May 90

[Report by unidentified Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent]

[Text] Mr. Kim Tal-hyon, chief of the North Korean Foreign Economic Commission [title as heard], has arrived at Mehrabad airport where he was welcomed by our country's construction jihad minister. The chief of the North Korean Foreign Economic Commission, who is here to attend the second joint session of the Iranian-North Korean economic commission, is scheduled to meet with the speaker of the Majles, the president, and ministers of foreign affairs, commerce, mines and metals, energy, and petroleum during his week-long stay in Iran. He will also convey a messsage from the DPRK president to our president.

During the session, the three committees on industry, commerce, and development will assess the prospects for economic cooperation between the two countries. The volume of economic exchanges between the two countries for last year had been set at $500 million, which includes North Korea's purchase of oil from Iran and its participation in development, fisheries, and heavy industry and steel projects.

*UK Reportedly Sets Conditions for Resuming Ties

90AS0041E London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Apr 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Government of Britain has set difficult conditions for resuming political relations with the Islamic Government. These conditions include the release of Roger Cooper from Evin prison, the cancellation of the religious decree [fatwa] to kill Salman Rushdie, and assistance in the release of the Western hostages in Beirut.

In its edition last Wednesday [11 April], the TIMES of London, citing informed sources in the British Foreign Ministry, writes that secret efforts have been made to establish relations between the two sides, and the British preconditions have been set. These informed sources declined to give details on the British government's conditions, but according to the TIMES, the three conditions above are clearly among those that have been set by the conservative British government for the resumption of relations with the Islamic Republic.

In the view of political experts, the Islamic Government is not in a position to cancel the decree to kill Salman Rushdie, but the release of Roger Cooper, who is imprisoned in Tehran on charges of spying for Britain, will not present that much of a problem for the Islamic government. In the view of these experts, despite the news of the release of two Western hostages in Lebanon, it does not appear that the Islamic government has decisive influence in the fate of the hostages. The resumption of

relations between the two sides thus appears unlikely under current circumstances.

Editorial on Soviet View of Third World Allies

NC1005124390 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 30 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Soviets and Political Reforms Among Third World Allies"]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad met Saturday morning [28 April] with Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev at the Kremlin. The Soviet TASS news agency reported that Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Defense Minister Dimitriy Yazov took part in the first round of talks between the two leaders, but the second round between the two heads of state was held in private.

This was President al-Asad's first visit to Moscow in three years. Since coming to power in 1970, Syria's leader has had excellent relations with the Soviet Union. Even now Syria is the Soviet Union's closest ally in the Middle East.

But developments of the past two years in Eastern Europe which led to the downfall of totalitarian regimes allied to Moscow, have brought about drastic changes in world politics and power equations. These changes, it goes without saying, would not have been possible without Moscow's green light. International political observers then believed for a while Gorbachev would also want similar political changes to take place among his Third World allies.

But contrary to the enthusiasm he showed for changes in Eastern Europe, Gorbachev has shown little or no such eagerness in relation to his Third World allies especially the Middle Eastern ones. An obvious example of this is his continued support for the regime of Najibullah in Afghanistan.

In Eastern Europe the Soviet Union had no choice but to draw back and in fact Gorbachev needed changes in communism's first camp for solidification of Glasnost and Perestroyka. But this is no longer sure to be the case in regard to the Soviets' Third World allies. Their socio-political structure, it seems, from Gorbachev's view has no bearing on USSR's reform policies.

By the way when facing the West's lackadaisical approach to reforms among its allies, the Soviets find little reason to push for drastic changes in their Third World allies.

There are countries in the Western camp which are indeed offering best examples of reactionary and non-democratic systems. There are found even instances of historically defunct systems like hereditary monarchical regimes among the West's Third World allies.

The west has chosen not to show any practical encouragement for pluralistic political changes lest such changes might prove detrimental to its own interests.

Why should then Moscow opt for what the other party shuns?

Soviets' national interests then, from Kremlin's view, necessitate that Moscow limit its concern over establishing democratic multi-party systems in allies like Syria and Libya to verbalization only.

*Khomeyni's Picture Taken Down After Disturbances

90AS0011C London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Mar 90 pp 1, 14

[Text] A huge mural of Ayatollah Khomeyni, which had been installed in the middle of Fowzieh Square years ago, was taken away last week.

Taking down this mural, which is a clear indication of the regime's retreat before the people, was due to repeated defacing of it, despite being guarded by Revolutionary Guards, by opponents of the regime during recent weeks.

According to a reliable source during the 16 February demonstrations, which stretched from Amjadieh to Fowzieh Square, the crowd opposing the regime congregated next to this mural and lifted a youth on their shoulders to tear it apart with a knife, but the Revolutionary Guards shot him dead. This youth was the only one killed [during the demonstrations] in Fowzieh Square.

After 16 February several Revolutionary Guards have been posted next to the mural to prevent it from being broken by the people.

Automobiles coming from Shahreza Avenue to pass through Fowzieh Square and continue on to Damavand Avenue (in continuation of Shahreza Avenue) must go through the underpass in Fowzieh Square. The ceiling of this underpass, directly under the middle of the Square is open by approximately 50 square meters. The huge mural of Khomeyni was located atop this section in the middle of the Square in such a way that its eyes looked on to Shahreza Avenue and Damavand Avenue.

Role of the Youths in Tehran's Disturbances

According to travelers who left Tehran for abroad this week, although one month has passed from the people's movement of 16 February, sporadic unrest can still be observed in the neighborhoods and streets of Tehran. [Anti-government] slogans appear on the walls and unauthorized literature [shab nameh—night letter] are thrown inside people's homes.

All those interviewed by KEYHAN concurred that it is the youths who continue to conduct these sporadic demonstrations. Many Tehrani families are worried about the participation of their 16- and 17-year-old children in these disturbances, but their advice is not being heeded by the youth and they continue with their activities.

An eyewitness indicated seeing two or three gatherings of 30 to 40 youths in Amiriyeh and Moniriyeh which were formed spontaneously and conducted small ten-minute demonstrations against the regime. This person stated that it is not clear who is the ringleader among these groups however, he has observed that after 10 minutes of shouting slogans against the regime they disperse speedily before the Revolutionary Guards show up. This person also told KEYHAN that pedestrians sympathize with these youths and participate with them in shouting slogans against the regime.

The eyewitness stated that every day in Tehran many rumors are heard about demonstrations in various parts of the town. It is believed that on several occasions the Revolutionary Guards have arrived on time and arrested several people in various parts of the town. However, there have never been any shootings.

Another eyewitness told KEYHAN that the Revolutionary Guards are uncharacteristically tolerant of the people. He gave the account of a driver of a private car who cursed and swore at two armed Guards manning a road block for a passing motorcade of an official of the regime. This person stated that during the past 10 years of traveling to Iran, this was the first time he observed that the Revolutionary Guards did not show the slightest reaction towards a common person who used such language.

It should be noted that last Wednesday [14 March], in the gathering of the Council of Combatants and Islamic Students Association, Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized that members of these organizations must defend the Islamic revolution in the alleyways, streets, schools, and universities. He said: "Today the universities, schools, alleyways, and streets of our country are centers for the defense of the Islamic revolution."

Unrest in Esfahan and Najafabad

A letter from a reliable source in Esfahan indicates that in both cities anti-government and pro-Reza Pahlavi slogans appear [on walls] and statements accusing the leaders of the regime of heresy and non-Moslem behavior are being distributed.

In this letter it is indicated that during the demonstrations in the first week of Esfand [20-27 February] in Esfahan the Revolutionary Guards did not react harshly towards the demonstrators because—with the exception of their commanders—they were all Revolutionary Guard conscripts. The reason for the lack of presence of [professional] Guards was due to them having been dispatched to Tehran to quell down the unrest in the capital.

This source has written that there have been clashes in Na'in between the people and the Revolutionary Guards and several people have been arrested.

Censorship of the News of Unrests

The regime strictly avoids official confirmation of the news of the unrest in Tehran and the other cities during the past month, and has not even once officially reported these clashes. Due to the fact that such censorship results in the widespread circulation of rumors, there are talks of massive demonstrations taking place in large cities.

In a recent radio-television interview commemorating the Revolutionary Guards Day, Sheykh 'Abdollah Nuri, the minister of interior, responded to a question by one of the reporters about these demonstrations by asserting that these are rumors "being used by spiteful foreign analysts and media" and aimed to lessen the significance of the 11 February march. About the Amjadieh demonstration by 50,000 people, he claimed that they were only a few hundred demonstrators. However, he was forced to admit that there were slogans against the officials of the Islamic Republic. In this regard he said: "Regarding this matter, some whose number was perhaps less than a few hundred objected to the cancellation of the soccer match by shouting slogans against soccer, the soccer officials, or [generally] against the officials [of the regime]. After about one hour the noise subsided and the matter was completely quelled. Of course some demonstrators who had damaged shops were arrested."

Sheykh 'Abdollah Nuri denied the continuation of disturbances and said: "After the 16 February soccer match [demonstrations], we have not had any other problem in Tehran or the other cities and allegations by the foreign media and radio are nothing but jokes and there is no truth in these rumors." He asked the people to deal with the issue with awareness and not to fall under the influence of destructive rumors.

Considering the fact that eyewitnesses have confirmed the taking place of unrest and demonstrations in Tehran, the statements of Sheykh 'Abdollah Nuri cannot be credible.

*Disturbances Continue, Many Arrested 15 Apr

90AS0041A London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Apr 90 pp 1, 8, 9

[Text] According to reliable reports from Tehran, on Sunday 15 April almost 200 young opponents of the regime shouted slogans against the regime at Mellat Park (Shahanshahi). This was at a time when, due to the good spring weather, the large Tehran park was full of people, especially youths and school children. The demonstrations against the regime at Mellat Park spread in a short time, and hundreds gathered at one part of the park shouting "Death to the Islamic Republic".

After the news of the demonstration at Mellat Park reached the Shemiran Revolutionary Committee, due to the size of the demonstration, revolutionary guards of the committee went to Mellat Park from Shemiran and other nearby points. Revolutionary guards of the Shemiran Committee, who arrived at the scene ahead of the regime's other officials, confronted the demonstrating youths and a fight began. In the sharp clash that took place between the revolutionary guards and the youths opposed to the regime, a number of revolutionary

guards and youth were wounded, but no reports have been received of anyone being killed.

While AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE [AFP] reported 65 were arrested at the Mellat Park demonstration, and on Monday 16 April the newspaper ABRAR reported that there were tens of arrests, in a telephone contact Tuesday afternoon [17 April] a reliable source told KEYHAN (London) that more than 100 persons were arrested at the Mellat Park demonstration.

The Tehran newspapers, including the newspaper ABRAR, called the demonstrators youths who were shouting slogans against the moral values of the Islamic Republic. ABRAR wrote nothing about the slogan "Death to the Islamic Republic" that the youths shouted.

The newspaper ABRAR called the youths opposed to the regime insurgents and individuals disrupting the peace of the people at Mellat Park.

The Paris newspaper FIGARO reported in its Tuesday edition that in addition to Shahanshahi Park, there were clashes between revolutionary guards and the people in other parts of Tehran.

The LONDON TIMES, which reported the unrest in Tehran in its Tuesday edition, connected the Mellat Park demonstration with the Javadiyeh incident and the killing of 'Aref Valipur, but according to the latest report from Tehran, the Mellat Park demonstration was separate and led by youths from the Pahlavi Street and Shemiran area.

Reports from Tehran also state that in the severe clash that took place on Monday 20 Farvardin (9 April) at Javadiyeh of Tehran, police agents at Javadiyeh killed 'Aref Valipur, whom they had been seeking for some time. 'Aref Valipur, who was famous in the Javadiyeh area for his support of the people who were abused and oppressed by the revolutionary guards, was especially loved by the poor people of Javadiyeh.

AFP reports from Tehran that on the seventh night mourning ceremonies for 'Aref Valipur, his supporters erected 70 tents for the mourners and supplied them with lamps and flowers. After the fast ended on 15 April (the day his holiness the commander was stricken) they turned the Javadiyeh area into a different place. On the seventh night of mourning for 'Aref Valizadeh, the crowd that had gathered to mourn suddenly began shouting anti-regime slogans, and the mourning rites were suddenly converted to a political demonstration against the Islamic government. The people of Javadiyeh poured into the streets to take advantage of the coincidence of these ceremonies with the mourning ceremonies of 15 April, and made the mourning of 'Aref Valipur a pretext for an anti-regime demonstration.

The arrival of police agents to break up the demonstration made the situation more critical, and the clash between them and the young people supporting 'Aref Valipur lasted more than two hours. In this violent clash, a number of people were wounded or arrested.

The newspaper ABRAR, which covered the seventh night mourning for 'Aref Valipur, wrote that 'Aref Valipur was being sought for several killings dating from the year 1358 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980], but at the same time the newspaper confirmed that he had been famous for helping and supporting the deprived people of the area, and that he was especially loved in the area. ABRAR did not say how it was that a person like 'Aref Valipur could have been sought since 1358 without being arrested.

At the same time AFP reported from south Tehran that the guards of the Revolutionary Committee attacked 700 hovels in the poverty-stricken Kiyan Shahr area, and arrested a great many residents of this area living in dire poverty on charges of corruption, illegal dealings in goods, and breaking the law.

The unrest in Tehran resumed at a time when the city actually appeared to be quite calm because of the month of Ramadan.

Political and social experts have been expecting the clashes to resume for several weeks. They are expecting harsh incidents against the Islamic regime, in view of the poverty and unemployment of youth, the chaotic conditions, and the Islamic government's failure at managing the country.

Extensive Unrest in Baluchestan

Reports from Baluchestan say that in the last two months there has been an almost unprecedented spread in armed clashes between the Baluchi tribes and the committee forces and the revolutionary guards. In the clashes, reports of which have been confirmed recently by the Islamic government, a great many people have been killed on both sides.

Almost three months ago in an armed clash nine revolutionary guards were killed by tribesmen. Following this incident, two individuals named Gol Mohammad Qanbarzehi, the son of Rahmat, and Davud Qanbarzehi, the son of Ilan, were arrested by officials and turned over to the Zahedan revolutionary court. These two individuals were hanged on 4 April this year in Zahedan. In reporting the news of the execution of these two individuals, contrary to the usual practice, they were not called smugglers or corrupt. The only crime mentioned for them was fighting with revolutionary guard forces.

In early Farvardin [late March] there was also an armed clash between gendarmerie forces and a group of Baluchi tribesmen on the Zahedan-Bam road. The armed Baluchis killed 10 gendarmes by throwing grenades, including two colonels, and after taking their weapons and ammunition they fled. Following this incident the gendarmes surrounded the armed Baluchis in the surrounding mountains, killing four in a fight and arresting five.

There was also a large armed clash last week between armed Baluchis and revolutionary guards and tribal members of the mobilization in which a group of revolutionary guards and mobilization members were killed.

In these clashes five leaders and nine Baluchi guerillas were killed. According to a representative of the Baluchi guerillas outside Iran, at four AM last Thursday morning the Islamic regime's forces attacked several villages with armed helicopters and supporting infantry where there are centers of opposition and anti-regime demonstrations, and the cannon-equipped helicopters maintained a sustained attack against the areas of Rudmahi and Danehbaghi, which was the announced free fire zone, killing a number of elderly persons.

A spokesman for the Baluchi combatants in Europe named Amanollah Baluch told media representatives that these clashes began because of the arrival these last few days of commander Rashid 'Ali Naru'i, commander of the Baluchi Liberation Front, in the Malusan and Danehbaghi area.

A representative of the Baluchi combatants in Europe said: The Baluchis are fighting the Islamic Republic for their aspirations, and this hostility and enmity has existed from the first day towards the workers of this regime, and will continue.

*Head of Tehran TV Reportedly Fired, Arrested

90AS0041D London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] According to a report from Tehran, Mohammad Sheykh 'Attar, chief of the Tehran Television Department, was fired from his job and arrested last week.

It is said that the image of Reza Pahlavi was shown for a very short and fleeting period, between 5 and 6 PM on Tuesday 10 April, on the television (Tehran Channel Two) and was then quickly erased. Although this display was quite short, no longer than four or five seconds, the regime's officials noticed it and sought to find the person responsible for transmitting it.

It is not yet known if the arrest of Mohammad Sheykh 'Attar was connected to the broadcast of the picture of Reza Pahlavi or not, whether his arrest was because of his ineffective supervision of the broadcast of television programs, or whether or not he has been directly charged.

The report of the arrest of Mohammad Sheykh 'Attar, manager of the Tehran Television Department, also states that his brother, Ahmad Sheykh 'Attar, governor-general of the Province of East Azerbaijan, has also been arrested and imprisoned.

*Abadan Reconstruction Allotment Reduced

90AS0041H London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] Credits to rebuild Abadan in the current year have decreased 25 percent from the previous year, due to the lack of activity on the part of the officials in the designated staffs.

The above point was made to news correspondents by Dabbagh, the official in charge of Abadan's urban reconstruction. Explaining that in the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] more than 93 percent of the 20 billion rials credit allocated for Abadan's reconstruction was spent, he said: "The current year can be called the year for setting the direction for reconstruction and the serious formation of the city of Abadan."

In part of his press conference, the Abadan reconstruction official claimed that to date more than 700 housing units have been rebuilt in the eastern villages and in Bahmanshir, and work has been completed supplying electrical service to one village, rebuilding the date orchards, and digging the earth for several earth dams.

Dabbagh added: "The sum of 20 billion rials credit was allocated to rebuild Abadan in 1368, only about 80 percent of the needed credits to rebuild more than 60,000 housing units, and if this figure reaches 80 percent in the next five years, the work of rebuilding Abadan will be completed.

*Travel Restrictions to Abadan Lifted

90AS0041I London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] The governor of Abadan announced that henceforth travel to Abadan will not require an entry pass. Until this time, whoever wanted to go to Abadan had to obtain special authorization from the appropriate officials.

Unrestricted travel to Abadan is occurring at a time when reconstruction of this city has gone no further than talk, and its original inhabitants are still scattered in various cities in the country.

Two weeks ago the mayor of Abadan complained because the reconstruction staffs still had not fulfilled their commitments to rebuild this city. According to officials in Abadan, purges, rather than reconstruction, have taken place in Abadan so far.

Instead of directly undertaking the reconstruction of the cities destroyed in the war, the Islamic Republic wants the people to rebuild these cities. Based on this situation, every province has taken on the reconstruction of some of the war-damaged cities, but in practice the "designated staffs" from the provinces have not yet acted on their commitments, and Abadan, Khorramshahr, and the rest of the war-damaged cities are still in ruins.

*Bill Ratification Threatens Commercial Activities

90AS0041F London KEYHAN in Persian 19 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] The single-urgency proposal to punish economic agitators, submitted to the Majles last week, threatens any kind of private-sector investment to rebuild the country, and it has exacerbated the severe conflict between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his Majles opponents, who now rally under the banner of Mohtashemi.

Under a proposal presented to the Majles by a number of deputies for study and passage on Sunday 8 April, it will be possible to hang anyone who engages in minor or major commercial, investment, or financial activities on charges of warring with God and corruption on the earth.

The text of this bill, whose extent and implications are extensive, indeterminate, and vague, is as follows:

In view of the fact that in the nation's current sensitive situation the religiously unlawful and hostile acts of a number of profiteers and some counterrevolutionaries have created disturbances in the nation's economic system and severe market disruptions, and have brought market chaos, unbridled price increases, and intolerable pressure on society's middle-and lower-income classes, and in some cases organized and counterrevolutionary activities are being carried out such as the export of foreign exchange, antiques, and the national wealth, and that the hoarding of public necessities, non-payment of taxes, and other self-serving measures are now obstructing national reconstruction and the proper and rapid implementation of the government's reform programs, and are naturally making the common people pessimistic, bring foreign economic domination to the country, and are ultimately damaging the principle of the sacred Islamic government, the following single-urgency bill is presented to the Majles.

Article 1: Whenever a person or persons sets out to damage the nation's economic system, or knowingly commits the following acts as the result of his activities, he will be convicted of warring with God and corruption on the earth, and will be punished under the Islamic penalties law.

A: Disruption of the monetary and foreign exchange system and smuggling the nation's major wealth abroad.

B: Disruption of the government system of finances, wages, and taxes.

C: Disruption of the distribution of public necessities such as hoarding, selling at high prices, prior purchases of agricultural products and other necessities of the people, for the purpose of creating a marketing monopoly.

D: Disruption of the nation's production system.

E: Any kind of destructive economic activity that creates economic insecurity and lack of public confidence in the Islamic government, disruption of the government's programs, foreign market domination, or undermines Muslim economic commands.

Note 1: If these activities are committed by salaried persons, the acting director or any other influential person or persons will be subject to the penalties given in this law.

Note 2: If these activities are not at the level of warring with God and corruption on the earth, the perpetrators will be subject to government penalties of two to 10 years' imprisonment and a cash fine of one to 10 times the capital invested in the violation, and in the event there is warring with God and corruption on the earth, the relevant assets will be confiscated by the government.

Note 3: If government officials and agents or revolutionary organizations and units are directly involved or collaborate in the commission of these crimes, in addition to the penalties given they will be permanently banned from government employment.

In view of the general and vague points that exist in this bill, the severe clash between the deputies supporting and opposing it in the Islamic Republic is expected to escalate, because if such a bill is approved, no merchant or industrial leader will have the courage to invest and expand commercial, developmental, or production activities.

Nepal & Bhutan

Government Feels 'Normality'; Curfew To Be Lifted

BK1005115590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1145 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 10 (AFP)—A nighttime curfew imposed on cities in the Kathmandu Valley 18 days ago, after police and mob clashes that left six policemen dead, will be lifted starting Thursday [10 May], a government source said.

The source said the 10 p.m.-to-4 a.m. curfew, which has been slowly reduced from 10 to six hours, would be lifted completely, effective Thursday night, because the government felt normality had returned.

Curfew Lifted in Kathmandu, Remains in Lalitpur

BK1005150590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1454 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 10 (AFP)—A night curfew imposed in Kathmandu 18 days ago after mobs and police clashed resulting in the death of six policemen, was lifted Thursday [10 May], state radio announced. The six hour 10:00 p.m. until 4:00 a.m. curfew was lifted from the Nepalese capital and the neighbouring hamlet of Kirtipur, where the situation has "returned to normal," the radio said, but not in the nearby town of Lalitpur.

Official sources had earlier said the lifting would apply to all three areas. The Lalitpur curfew would remain until further notice, the radio said.

It added that King Birendra dissolved the National Sports Council (NSC), considered the cover organization for Mandales, an underground right-wing group, on the recommendation of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai. The prime minister cited "the change in the political situation in the country" as the reason for the dissolution, and said the king had appointed Education and Culture Minister Dr. K.J. Rayamjhi to head a new NSC and assigned him to prepare a list of nominees.

The street riots that resulted in the curfew were triggered by mobs of Mandales looting shops and beating up pro-democracy activists shortly after King Birendra had announced that political parties would be allowed in Nepal. The Mandales are hired thugs and were known to be working for officials of the old partyless panchayat system, dissolved last month after the successful pro-democracy movement to give way to the political parties.

The street mobs had accused the police of turning a blind eye or in some cases collaborating with the Mandales.

The former secretary general of the NSC, Sharad Chandra Shah, fled the country late last month to an unknown destination to avoid mob violence, arrest and legal action, sources here said. The angry mob that lynched the police in the streets had turned on his house in an elite area of the city, and burned it along with his two cars and all valuables.

King Says Commission To Retain Monarchy

BK1105065290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0632 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 11 (AFP)—King Birendra announced Friday [11 May] he had formed a high level seven member constitutional recommendation commission and stipulated that it would retain the monarchy in Nepal, state radio said. The radio quoting a palace communique said the commission would be chaired by Supreme Court Justice Biswa Nath Upadhyaya, a democrat, and contain royalists, leftists and democrats. The stipulated guidelines of the commission were that it "institutionalize a constitutional monarchy and multiparty democracy in the interests of Nepal and the well being of the Nepalese people."

The palace communique stressed that the guidelines were in line with announcements by the king on April 8 that the 1962 Constitution would be revamped to eliminate all reference to the then partyless Panchayat system of government.

The commission was charged with submitting its recommendations within three months and establishing its own working procedures.

The other six members were named as:
—Surya Nath Upadhyaya, a joint secretary from the judicial service.
—Former Attorney General Ramananda Prasad Singh, a leftist.
—Advocate Hoda Prasad Joshi, a former assistant minister of Nepal's first elected government in 1959-60.
—Mrs. Kamal Rana, former deputy speaker of the Parliament, a royalist and strong critic of the multiparty system.
—Daman Dhungana, a Nepali Congress activist and Supreme Court advocate.
—Bharat Mohan Adhikari, a Marxist leader representing the United Left Front.

The announcement, made a little over a month after the king yielded to mass pro-democracy demonstrations and lifted the ban on political parties, was expected to draw strong fire from politicians here, especially leftists.

"The remodelling of an organ (the Constitution) is not enough in this changed political context," a senior member of the Nepali Congress Party commented Friday. "What is needed is a completely new Constitution."

The congress is a main element of the new government installed after the April 8 declaration.

A seminar held by legal experts in Kathmandu last week to debate the shape of the country's future recommend that the monarchy be retained with limited powers.

However the seminar was considered by many as elitist and brought forward conflicting views, with many leftists advocating a complete rewrite of the Constitution and some calling for elections to a full-fledged constitutional assembly.

Particularly galling to the new government of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai was expected to be the inclusion of Mrs. Kamal Rana, a strident critic of the pro-democracy movement.

Mrs. Rana, a relative of the queen, has stated that political parties in Nepal would be dominated by "foreigners" and threaten the country's sovereignty.

Communists Call for Consolidation of Democracy

BK1005131590 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 29 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Kathmandu, April 28 (RSS)—A special meeting of the Communist Party held under the chairmanship of General Secretary of the Nepal Communist Party and honorary president of the United Left Front Tulsi Lal Amatya on April 26 issued a press statement saying that since the Nepalese have put the partyless Panchayat system to an end it is now the duty of all the people to consolidate and strengthen the base of democracy in the country.

Democracy is dynamic; it is like a tree that keeps on growing, attains maturity and bears fruits, the press statement says.

The statement underlines the need to immediately dismiss all the officials who are trying to nip democracy in the bud and to democratize the police and the army.

It is very essential to re-educate the officers who are in favour of democracy about the duties that they have to fulfil under a democratic system, they should understand and respect the voice of the people, the statement says.

Government communication media like Radio Nepal, Nepal Television, Gorkhapatra and The Rising Nepal, unlike under the Panchayat system, should develop according to democratic norms and values. They should act as a herald of democracy and should be a medium of arousing democratic spirit among all the people.

Radio Nepal, instead of providing cheap entertainment should serve as a medium of making the people well-informed and the plays and movies to be produced in the country should be of high standard, the statement says.

Wishing a success to the interim government in the task of consolidating democracy in the country, the statement has called on all to cooperate with the present government.

The statement has also appealed to all to be vigilant against the reactionaries and has hoped that the call of His Majesty the King on April 25 will take a concrete shape.

14-Point Programme: Meanwhile Nepal Communist Party Fourth Convention politbureau has welcomed the vigilance committee formed by the people for their security on their own initiatives.

The politbureau which met on April 26 and 27 said major achievements of the joint movement are the freedom of political parties and the multi-party interim government.

It, however warned that vandalism, terror, insecurity, theft, dacoity and murder were results of evil designs to reverse the achievements of the movement. It condemned such designs in strongest terms.

It pointed out that the fourteen-point programme adopted as a result of understanding between the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front has not been adopted publicly by the interim government as its main policy guideline. It called for immediate commitment to the fourteen-point programme to end present confusion regarding the government's future programme.

The meeting also demanded immediate abrogation of the present Panchayati constitution, introduction of an interim constitution and formation of all-powerful constitution drafting commission. No one should be above and beyond the reach of laws and constitution and that the sovereignty should be inherent elected parliament, it said. [sentence as published]

The meeting also demanded that the government should be accountable to the parliament, the right to pass laws, treaties, tax proposals and amendments should reside with the parliament, and the constitution should guarantee unhindered exercise of democratic rights.

On United Left Front, the party said the movement has proven the historic need for unity among leftist forces and called upon all leftist parties to strengthen unity by rising above narrowmindness.

It has also called on the United Left Front to further expand and develop its central structure in order to forge greater unity among leftist forces.

The unity between Nepali Congress and the United Left Front has played an important role in the movement for restoration of democracy and this unity is essential until the goal of full-fledged democracy is achieved.

The coordination between Nepali Congress and United Left Front should continue at the highest level regularly and all policies, programmes and decisions should be made on the basis of principles of equality and common consent.

Pakistan

Iran Sends Envoy to Joint Economic Commission

Finance Minister Nurbakhsh Arrives

LD1005121590 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 10, IRNA—The visiting Iranian Minister of Finance and Economy Mohsen Nurbakhsh and Pakistani Minister of State in Charge of Economy and Finance Ahsanul Haq Piracha expressed the interest of both countries for broadening their relations. The two officials inaugurated the 5th assembly of a joint economic commission between Iran and Pakistan here Thursday [10 May].

Nurbakhsh who arrived here Wednesday [9 May] said that last year border exchanges between the countries soared to 100 million rupees from 20 million rupees in the previous year.

He said also that the two countries are to sign an agreement for reduced tariffs on shipping, as well as a five-year cultural agreement. In the 4th letter of understanding between the two countries, bilateral trade exchanges had been anticipated to reach dlrs. 200 million. In 1989 Iran earmarked dlrs. 420 million for purchasing commodities from Pakistan. The volume of Tehran-Islamabad trade is about dlrs. 550 million, of which dlrs. 135 million is Iran's oil exports to Pakistan and dlrs. 1.2 million in non-oil exports to that country.

The Iranian official also expressed hope that Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, members of the tripartite Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), would shortly agree on a reduced tariff rates within the framework. The Pakistani official in response said that Islamabad wishes to broaden her relations with Iran in every area. In 1988 Iran-Pakistan trade exchanges amounted to about dlrs. 350 million which in 1989 rose to about dlrs. 550 million.

The agreements between Iran and Pakistan will be signed Saturday [12 May] in the form of a letter of understanding.

Meets Ishaq Khan, Bhutto

BK1005163690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] The fifth session of the Pakistan-Iran joint ministerial commission for economic, scientific, technical, cultural, and educational cooperation began in Islamabad today. The minister of state for finance, Mr. Ehsanul Haq Piracha, who is leading the Pakistani delegation at the session, said the commission provides an appropriate forum to promote cooperation between

the two countries in various fields. He said more areas of cooperation would be identified during the current session and called for greater collaboration in trade, scientific, and technical fields.

The Iranian minister for finance, Mr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, who is leading his country's delegation at the session, said the joint commission will help strengthen cooperation between the two countries. He said Iran is interested to see increase in trade and technical cooperation. It is also interested to have cooperation in the oil and gas exploration projects. Mr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh said Iran is laying stress on the export of non-oil products to Pakistan and to exchange experiences in industrial and technical fields.

The Iranian finance minister separately called on the president and the prime minister in Islamabad today. During his meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, he reiterated Iranian support for the people of occupied Kashmir and hoped that the matter would be resolved peacefully. The president expressed appreciation for the support Iran had extended to the people of occupied Kashmir.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 1525 GMT on 10 May 90 in a similar report adds: "The two sides discussed bilateral relations particularly in the economic field, and reiterated expansion of mutual ties."]

During his meeting with the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, he conveyed greetings of President Hashemi Rafsanjani and people of Iran to her. The prime minister expressed satisfaction over the deep brotherly relations between the two countries.

Further on Meeting With Premier

LD1005192290 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 10, IRNA—Iran's Minister of Finance and Economy Mohsen Nurbakhsh in a meeting with Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto here today, proposed that an oil pipeline be laid from Iran to Pakistan to meet part of the latter's energy needs. Nurbakhsh, here to participate in the 5th Tehran-Islamabad Joint Economic Commission, also said that Iran was prepared to invest in oil and gas projects in Pakistan. He said the Islamic Republic was concerned about the differences plaguing the Pakistan based Afghan guerilla groups and called on Pakistan to help unite the mujahideen in their fight against the Soviet installed Marxist regime in Kabul.

The Pakistani premier lauded Iran for supporting the Muslim struggles in Afghanistan and Kashmir, and said this proved the Islamic Republic of Iran with a correct understanding of Islam has fulfilled its duty towards liberation movements around the globe. She also paid tribute to the late leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni for his role in awakening the Muslim ummah and other oppressed peoples throughout the world.

Earlier today, Nurbakhsh conferred with Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Administration Notes 'Plot' Against Government

BK1105034390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 May 90

[Text] According to an official statement issued in Karachi, the state administration has taken strong note of activities by terrorists and criminals aimed at abetting fratricide and spreading chaos and lawlessness in the province. The statement expresses great concern at the designs to divide the people in the province on the basis of language, culture, religion, and place of birth. The government has instructed law enforcing agencies to deal sternly with the criminals and arrest them without delay so as to protect life and property. The statement expresses great sorrow and regret over the killing and kidnapping of innocent people.

Meanwhile, an official spokesman said in Karachi that there is no reason for strikes and terrorism in various services and units that aim to thwart steps being taken to improve the law and order situation in the province. The spokesman said such acts which are causing loss of life and property is a plot against the democratic government.

A press note by the Karachi circle district magistrate issued last night said the situation in Model Colony, Malir, and Malir Extension police stations areas where a curfew had been imposed from 1900 last night, is now normal.

Curfew Clamped on Karachi Areas After Violence

BK1005142290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Six more people were killed in violent incidents in Karachi today. A curfew has been imposed on Model Colony, Malir, and Malir Extension police stations areas of Karachi East with immediate effect.

Balochistan Closes Mujahidin Offices in Quetta

BK1005162090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1605 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, May 10 (AFP)—The government of Balochistan Province on Thursday [10 May] banned all mujahidin parties from operating in this southwestern city, Afghan resistance sources said here. All the offices of the seven mujahidin parties were locked up by the authorities, the sources said.

The local authorities have only allowed the resistance's Afghan Interim Government (AIG), formed by these seven parties more than a year ago, to operate, saying it was the sole representative of the Afghan guerrillas, the sources said. An official in the AIG defence ministry, Akbar Saadat, confirmed the closure of the offices, but no one from the Balochistan government was immediately available for comment.

But Afghan rebel parties were being allowed to operate in other parts of Pakistan. The seven Pakistan-based Sunni Moslem parties have kept their independent status even after the formation of AIG on February 23, 1989.